

To the Ends of the Earth: Session 2

Acts 1:15-26

Questions

1. Who takes the lead in speaking on behalf of the disciples?

Peter

2. How many believers were gathered together in Jerusalem?

120

3. What matter does Peter speak about?

Judas' betrayal and the need for another apostle

4. What was the difference between Judas's betrayal and Peter denying Jesus three times?

Peter backslid but got things right with God. Judas was probably never saved to begin with. He was motivated by money not the cause of Christ. When Judas saw Jesus, he saw dollar signs.

Judas represents the greatest example of wasted opportunity in all of history. He had the rare privilege, given to only twelve men, of living and ministering with Jesus Christ, God incarnate, for more than three years. He had the same convincing, overwhelming opportunity to come to faith in Him as the eleven did. Yet his motives for following Jesus were never anything but selfish. He no doubt shared the common Jewish hope that Messiah would deliver the nation from the yoke of the hated Romans. When it became obvious that was not Jesus' plan, and he would not get the wealth and power he wanted, Judas decided to cut his losses and get out with whatever he could salvage. Betraying the incarnate Son of God to the authorities for a paltry sum.

-- MacArthur

5. From what Old Testament book does Peter quote about another taking the office of Judas?

Psalms

Psalms 55:12-15

Psalms 69:25

Psalms 109:8

6. What is guiding the church to make the decision to replace Judas?

The Bible and prayer

Two things go together in the Christian life: prayer, in which we talk to God, and Bible study, in which God talks to us. — Boice

7. What are the requirements to look for in potential candidates to replace Judas?

Somebody who was close to Jesus and had been with Jesus from the beginning and somebody who was a witness to the resurrection.

8. Who were the two names put forth?

Matthias and Joseph

9. What did the church do before casting lots?

Prayed

10. Why did the disciples cast lots?

The disciples were following Old Testament precedent. Casting lots was an accepted method for determining God's will.

The typical method for casting lots involved writing the two names on stones, placing them into a jar, and shaking it until one fell out.²³ — ZIBBCNT

11. Who was chosen by the casting of lots?

Matthias

12. In God's eyes, who was the 12th disciple: Matthias or Paul?

Some have argued that Peter and the apostles were mistaken to choose a replacement for Judas. Paul, they assume, was really the Lord's choice as the twelfth apostle. Since there are only to be twelve thrones in the kingdom (Matt. 19:28), the twelfth must be for the greatest apostle, Paul. Nothing in this passage, however, indicates that this action is wrong. It is inconceivable that the Lord would allow such a crucial error in such a crucial office at the very beginning of His church. Why would He take pains to provide the apostles with all the proper resources, and then allow them to choose the wrong man? Jesus Christ chose Matthias just as surely as He chose the other eleven. And while Paul was in no way inferior to the twelve, he was not one of their number. By his own testimony he was "in no respect ... inferior to the most eminent apostles, even

though I am a nobody” (2 Cor. 12:11). He was a unique apostle. The mission of the twelve was primarily to the nation of Israel, while he was the apostle sent to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13).

— Boice