

Acts 1:15-26

Peter's Speech & The Appointment of Matthis

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Acts 1:15-20 (NASB)

15 At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, 16 "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it'; and, 'Let another man take his office.'

Acts 1:21-25 (NASB)

21 Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us – 22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

What time is it?

At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,

- *At this time* – a few days after the ascension of Jesus
 - They had gathered in the upper room
 - They spent their time focused on prayer
- *Brethren* – can also be translated “disciples”
 - These are all followers of Jesus
 - These 120 were not necessarily all the disciples – see 1 Cor. 15:6
- Why did Peter take the lead?
 - He wasn't one to wait around – first to speak (much of the time), first to step out of the boat, first to enter the empty tomb
 - As we shall see, he had already internalized Jesus' words

It was destiny

Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David...

- *the Scripture had to be fulfilled*
 - Had = divine necessity¹
 - The disciples had complete confidence in the prophecies of Scripture
 - They are at a point now where they can understand what they could not understand earlier
- *the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David*
 - Refers to Psalm 41:9
 - They are quick to acknowledge the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 - This is not determinism; rather it is prophesy (i.e. knowledge of future events)
- What choice did Judas have in all of this?

¹Constable

One of us

...concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.”

- *Judas* – Judas Iscariot (less there be any confusion)
- *became a guide to those who arrested Jesus*
 - Judas betrayed Jesus to his eventual killers
 - Judas' actions led directly to the crucifixion of Jesus
 - Judas' actions were a part of God's ultimate plan
- *he was counted among us* – He was chosen directly by Jesus
- *received his share in the ministry* – He participated in his earthly ministry
- What did the disciples think of Judas (and his situation) at this point?
 - Is it yet clear they fully understood God's plan?

Paranetical on the demise of Judas

(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

- Expansion on the account in Matthew 27:3-10 (probably entered by Luke for the benefit of his readers)
- *acquired a field* – Matthew says Judas threw the money down, which the priests used for the purchase of the field
 - Like with the crucifixion, his actions are tied with the results
- *falling headlong* – Matthew said Judas hanged himself
 - Most likely, he hung himself, and then his body fell to the ground
 - Ultimately, he had a very violent demise
- Side note: what value is remorse without justice?

As it is written...

“For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it’; and, ‘Let another man take his office.’

- Peter is careful to tie his assessment of the situation to Scripture²
 - He is looking to the OT for guidance in the present situation
- Psalm 69:25 – *May their camp be desolate; May none dwell in their tents.*
 - David is speaking of suffering as a result of his enemies
 - Ps. 69:9 is quoted in John 2:17
- Psalm 109:8 – *Let his days be few; Let another take his office.*
 - David speaks of judgment for those who “repaid me evil for good and hatred for my love.”

²both passages are specific to David, but Peter is drawing connection to Christ

Doing the right thing?

Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us...one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

- *it is necessary* – why would Peter say it was necessary?
 - He was speaking with the power of the Holy Spirit – John 20:22
 - Promise regarding the twelve thrones – Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30
- Was he right? Should it have been Paul?³
 - Judas defected before he died (Acts 12:2 – James martyred, not replaced)
 - They believed the Lord was choosing (Acts 1:2, 24)
 - Luke called them the twelve (Acts 2:14; 6:2)
 - Paul called them the twelve (1 Corinthians 15:5)
 - Paul had an unique apostleship⁴ (1 Corinthians 15:7-10; Galatians 1:1)

³these reasons come from Merryman, but Baker also makes similar points

⁴our understanding of the Kingdom comes into play

Strict qualifications

Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us – beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

- Requirements for apostleship
 - *accompanied us all the time* – walking alongside them for the whole ministry
 - From Jesus' baptism to his ascension
 - More than just accompany; actually participate
 - *witness...of His resurrection* – had to have seen the resurrected Christ
 - Why such emphasis on the resurrection?
- Does Paul fit these requirements?
 - Paul's apostleship is to the church; the others' to the Kingdom
 - Baker: *The Twelve are going to sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve Tribes in the Kingdom. Paul will...be with the heavenly Body of Christ.*

The short list

So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.

- *they* – was this the eleven or the whole assembly?
- *Joseph called Barsabbas and Matthias*
 - Joseph is a Hebrew name, Barsabbas is Aramaic meaning "Son of the Sabbath," and Justus is Roman.⁵
 - Matthias is Hebrew and is a short form of Mattithia.
 - We know nothing else about these men
- There are precedents for such a replacement
 - Samuel for Samson
 - David for Saul
 - and others
- Do we see any such replacement after this?

⁵name information comes from Constable

This is God's choice

And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

- *they prayed* – prayer proceeds the asking⁶
 - They also prayed in verse 14, so this is a pattern for them
- *who know the hearts of all men* [greek: *kardiognōstēs*] – heart-knower
 - Used again by Peter in Acts 15:8
 - Used 603 times in OT; 160 in NT
- *show* – to show plainly or openly⁷
 - See Luke 10:1
 - The assumption here is that this is God's appointment
- *Judas turned aside [from the ministry]* – Was Judas ever saved?

⁶Wuest: *having prayed, they said...*

⁷Zodhiates

And the winner is...

And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

- *they drew lots* – most likely drawing one of two stones⁸
 - Casting lots to determine God's will – Leviticus 16:8; Joshua 14:2; 1 Samuel 14:41-42; Nehemiah 10:34; 11:1; Proverbs 16:33⁹
 - This demonstrated that the choice was God's
 - Last time casting of lots is recorded
- *the lot fell to Matthias* – he is now one of the twelve
 - Verified in Acts 2:14; 6:2; 1 Corinthians 15:5
 - Is there anything to be surmised from the fact that Matthias was apparently a Hebrew?

⁸Constable

⁹a total of about 100 times

Acts 1:15-20 (Wuest)

And in these days Peter having arisen in the midst of the brethren said (and there was a group of persons gathered together, about one hundred and twenty), Men, brothers, it was a necessity in the nature of the case for the scripture to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke on a previous occasion through David's mouth concerning Judas, the one who became guide to those who seized Jesus, for he was numbered among us and received his portion of this ministry. Now, this man acquired a piece of ground, the purchase price having its source in wages obtained by wrongdoing, and having fallen flat on his face, he cracked open at the waist with a crashing noise and all his inner organs gushed out. And it became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that that piece of ground came to be called in their own language, Akeldamach, that is, a bloody piece of ground, for it stands written in the Book of Psalms, Let his place of abode become deserted, and let there not be he who establishes his permanent residence in it, and his office let another person of a different character take.

Acts 1:6-8 (Wuest)

Therefore, it is a necessity in the nature of the case that of those men who have accompanied us during all the time the Lord Jesus went in and went out in our presence, beginning from the time of John's baptism until the day when He was taken up from us, there be one of these appointed as one who bears testimony with us that he was a personal witness of His resurrection. And they nominated two, Joseph, the one called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And having prayed, they said, Lord, you who have an experiential knowledge of the hearts of all, appoint the one of these two whom you selected out to receive the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which ministry and apostleship Judas fell away to proceed to his own private, unique place. And they handed out lots to be placed in an urn with respect to them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.