

I mentioned last week, that vv12-26 record what happened in the 10 days prior to the Day of Pentecost. Luke provides a general description of what the disciples did in vv12-14, and the replacement of Judas in vv15-26. I want to consider three things about this replacement: It's Necessity, Qualifications, and Ultimate Determiner.

- I. The Necessity for His Replacement (vv15-20)
- II. The Qualifications for His Replacement (vv21-22)
- III. The Ultimate Determiner of His Replacement (vv23-26)

I. The Necessity for His Replacement (vv15-20)

1. Verses 15-20 provide two reasons behind this necessity—OT prophecy, and Judas' betrayal and death.
2. (1) OT prophecy, v15—"And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said."
3. The phrase "and in those days" means, in the 10 days between our Savior's ascension and the gift of the Spirit.
4. There's little doubt that Peter held a position of authority within the early church and so he stood in the midst of the disciples and said.
5. V16—"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus: for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."
6. He then quotes the Scripture he meant in v20, where he quotes from two OT passages: Psalm 69 and Psalm 109.
7. Verses 18-19 are a digression by Peter, or else an insertion by Luke, and are thus placed in brackets by our translators (except for the KJV).
8. I want to come back to these verses in a few minutes, but if you read vv15-20, skipping over vv18-19 the passage makes perfect sense.
9. In v16, Peter talks about the fulfillment of Scripture, and then in v20, he actually provides what Scripture he meant.
10. V20—"For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it' (Ps.69:25), and 'Let another take his office'" (Ps.109:8).
11. Peter understood both of these Psalms as foretelling or predicting the betrayal and apostasy of Judas.
12. Acts 1:16—"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."
13. Notice how Peter put it—the same Judas who betrayed Jesus was numbered among the apostles of Christ.
14. Thus, I want to turn to these two Psalms briefly, and merely point out the similarity of them (Ps.69:19-25; 109:1-8).
15. We find two things in both Psalms: (a) Judas' betrayal deeply wounded our Savior; (b) Judas' destruction was prayed for by our Savior.
16. (a) Judas' betrayal deeply wounded our Savior, Ps.69:20—"Reproach has broken My heart, and I am full of heaviness" Ps.109:5—"Thus they have rewarded Me evil for good, and hatred for My love."
17. The 'reproach' our Savior referred to came from various sources—the Jews and Romans but also Judas.

18. Who did our Savior refer to as rewarding Him evil for good and hatred for love? Well, obviously, Judas.
19. Remember, our Savior was truly Man and Truly God; thus, He felt every human emotion in the fullest sense.
20. As man, the reproach and mistreatment He felt broke His heart, and formed no small part of His suffering.
21. Ps.41:9—"Even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me."
22. (b) Judas' destruction was prayed for by our Savior, Ps.69:25—"Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents" Ps.109:8—"Let his days be few, and let another take his office."
23. As most of you guys know, these prayers are called imprecatory prayers (which refer to prayers for God's curse to fall upon His enemies).
24. When people think about Jesus, I fear very few of them think about Him praying such prayers as these.
25. Ps.109:6-7—"Set a wicked man over him, and let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is judged, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer become sin."
26. Thus, the question becomes—why does our blessed and loving Savior pray for the destruction of His enemies?
27. Well, believe it or not, these imprecatory prayers are the expression of our Savior's pure and holy heart.
28. It's only right that our Savior would desire that those who hate God and His people would be destroyed.
29. Brethren, we have to remember, the judge of wicked men is not a bad thing but a very good and righteous thing.
30. Just stop and think of what Judas did—he spurned His and betrayed Him to the Jews, v16—"who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus."
31. (2) Judas' betrayal and death—here of course I refer to verses 18-19, and Peter's (or Luke's) digression about Judas.
32. Our Savior originally chose 12 apostles, and now there needs to be a replacement to return the number to 12.
33. Why 12? Well, I mentioned last week that Christ likely chose 12 to portray the church as His new Israel (just as there were 12 tribes in the OT, there are 12 apostles in the NT).
34. V18—"Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."
35. According to Matthew 27:5, Judas felt guilty for betraying Jesus, and returned the money and hung himself.
36. Thus, here we learn in Acts 1:18, that after hanging himself, he fell headlong and burst open in the middle and all his innards gushed out.
37. Verse 19 says this event became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem—in other words, Judas' death was gruesome and shameful.
38. Verse 25 tells us, Judas "went to his own place"—which means, he went to own place of punishment.
39. The imagery is that Judas had a very unique place waiting for him, as his punishment was very great (thus, I want to briefly suggest three lessons before moving on to our second main heading).
40. Lesson 1—While Scripture is written by man, its ultimate author is God the Holy Spirit, v16—"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David."

41. Lesson 2—While God is absolutely sovereign, man remains totally responsible, Matt.26:24—"The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."
42. Lesson 3—While hell is a place of punishment for all who enter, there are some who will be especially punished (the degree of punishment will be based upon the amount of light you received).

II. The Qualifications for His Replacement (vv21-22)

1. Luke provides two basic qualifications to be an apostle: they had to be witnesses of His earthly ministry and resurrection.
2. (1) They had to be witnesses of His earthly ministry, vv21-22—"Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us."
3. Lk.6:13—"And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles."
4. Notice, our Savior had other disciples, in addition to the twelve, who followed Him—"He called His disciples to Himself."
5. We learned last week there were also women who followed Him—thus, it's from this group of other disciples that a replacement was found.
6. In order for a person to serve as an apostle, he had to a witness of all that Jesus did "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us."
7. This refers to His entire earthly ministry—the three years He spent preaching the gospel and healing the sick.
8. The phrase "all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us" refers to that three-year period.
9. To "go in and out" merely refers to presence among the disciples—He was always going in and out among them.
10. (a) They heard His teaching—they heard His sermons, discourses, and parables—both public and private.
11. (b) They beheld His miracles—they personally saw His divine power in healing the sick and raising the dead.
12. (c) They observed His purity—they personally saw His perfect holiness, patience, anger, and compassion.
13. Thus, there's a sense in which, each of the 12 apostles received a personal three-year theological education.
14. (2) They had to be witnesses of His resurrection, v22—"one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."
15. This doesn't mean they had to see Him raise from the dead, but they had to of seen Him post-resurrection.
16. They had to be a personal witness that He did rise from the dead, as He had repeatedly said He would.
17. This is why, after His resurrection, we read, "He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once" (1Cor.15:6).
18. Thus, in terms of a replacement for Judas, they had to select a person that came from this five hundred.
19. It's for this reason, we find throughout the book of Acts, the apostles specifically testified about the resurrection.
20. Acts 4:33—"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them" (17:18, 32; 23:6, 8; 24:15, 21).

21. But why was the resurrection so important, that having personally witnessed it, was a necessary qualification of an apostle?
22. (a) The resurrection was an important part of our Savior's redemptive work, Rom.4:25—"who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."
23. Our Savior was raised from the dead because His sinless and perfect sacrifice was excepted by His Father.
24. (b) The resurrection was an important part of our Savior's vindication, 1Tim.3:16—"God was manifested in the flesh, justified in (by) the Spirit."
25. How, or when was Christ justified (vindicated) by the Spirit? At His resurrection, when He was publically vindicated of every false accusation, and was declared openly to be the Lord of heaven and earth.
26. It's for these reasons, the resurrection was absolutely essential to the message proclaimed by the apostles.
27. Now before I leave this second main heading, I want to briefly answer the question—did Paul qualify as an apostle?
28. Well, let's see if he met the three necessary qualifications (I listed above) for a person to be an Apostle.
29. First, was he personally called by Christ? Sam Waldron—"According to Acts 9:1-8, Paul both heard a physical voice and saw a physical light—the glory of the resurrected lord Jesus."
30. Furthermore, according to 1Cor.15:7-8, Paul speaks of this occasion as beholding the resurrected Christ.
31. 1Cor.15:7-8—"After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."
32. Second, was he personally taught by Christ? According to Gal.1:15-17, after he was called, he spent three years in Arabia (where he was personally instructed by Christ).
33. Third, was he able to perform signs and wonders? Though it's not expressly mentioned in Acts 1:21-22, all apostles were given the ability to perform signs and wonders as proof of their apostleship.
34. Acts 2:43—"Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles" 5:12—"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people."
35. 2Cor.12:12—"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."

III. The Ultimate Determiner of His Replacement (vv23-26)

1. V23—"And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias"—they then did two things (prayed and cast lots).
2. (1) They prayed, vv24-25—"And they prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to this own place.'"
3. Here the disciples recognize that Christ alone knows the hearts of all men, and chooses His own apostles.
4. Thus, they prayed because they needed Christ to reveal to them which of these two men are to replace Judas.
5. (2) They cast lots, v26—"And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles."
6. The practice of casting lots was established by God in the OT, and continued by the church in her infancy.

7. The first time we have it mentioned is Lev.16:8, where Aaron was to cast lots for the two goats (to know which one to sacrifice and which one to send into the wilderness as the scapegoat.
8. And so, within the OT we never find private people using lots—it was something for the leadership to use.
9. We find the same thing here also—the church is casting lots collectively as God's NT Israel, looking to God for direction.
10. Lots were used to determine God's will—it was an infallible way by which God made His will known.
11. Prov.16:33—"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD"—He revealed His will in and through the lot.
12. When did the use of lots end? I don't know. This is the last time we find in Scripture the practice used.
13. I suggest with the gift of the Spirit and NT Scripture, the church no longer needed lots to determine His will.
14. Thus, the practice ended with the early church, and should no longer be used to determine God's will.
15. And so, the question becomes—how does the church today recognize which men are given to her as elders and deacons?
16. Well, I suggest we basically do the same thing as the early church did—we pray and seek His will as revealed in Scripture.
17. The NT Scriptures provide us with the necessary qualifications for a man to serve as elder or deacon.
18. Thus, it's necessary for leaders and members of local churches to seek the will of Christ about these matters.
19. Remember, what I've said several times already—because this book recounts the acts of the apostles, not everything found here is to be repeated by us.
20. The apostles were a unique office given by Christ to serve as a foundation upon which the church would be built.
21. And yet, remember what I also said—though we are not to duplicate everything, we still find abiding principles.
22. Thus, in closing, I want to suggest the disciples' replacement of Judas, provides us with three lessons.
23. And these three lessons have to do with how NC officers (both elders and deacons) are to be recognized.
24. (a) All NC officers must have spent time with Christ—that is, they must have the scent of Christ upon them and their lives.
25. Acts 4:13—"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."
26. (b) All NC officers must be a witness of Christ's resurrection power—no person today has seen the resurrected Christ.
27. But this doesn't mean, that NC ministers no longer witness or testify of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
28. For every minister is to testify of Christ's resurrection in two ways—verbally with their words and practically with their works.
29. (c) All NC offices must be chosen by Christ through the voice of His beloved church—churches recognize their own officers.
30. How do they do this? Well ultimately, they do this by way of vote, and this vote is the voice of Christ.