

PRAY, SERVE, & FOLLOW

ACTS 1:12-26

Pastor Daniel Flynn

I.) In response to the angelic message:

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, and Judas the son of James.”

- A. So, the disciples head out to gather in the upper room.
- B. We are then given a list of those disciples who are gathering.

II.) They not only prayed, but they prayed together and they prayed constantly! ¹⁴

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- A. Luke reminds us that women were included along with the disciples and Jesus' physical brothers.
- B. What were they praying?

III.) When you have God's Work to do... it's best to base it on Scripture!

²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’”

- A. So, Peter assumed the leadership
- B. Peter expresses the need to replace Judas
- C. Sometimes the failures of the church and individuals need a good airing out!
- D. The differences between Luke's and Matthew's account of how Judas died should not worry us.

IV.) Watching God at Work, the Lord's Sovereignty!

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- A. So, they all are a part of the nomination process.
- B. In sovereign selection, God chose Matthias to become the twelfth apostle.

Conclusion:

Samuel Coleridge, a few days before his death on July 13, 1834, wrote a letter to his grandson which included this paragraph:

- “I have known what the enjoyments and advantages of this life are, and the refined pleasures which learning and intellectual power can bestow upon us; and with all the experience that more than three score years (60+ years) can give, I now, on the eve of my departure, declare to you that health is a great blessing; competence a great blessing; and a great blessing it is to have kind, loving, and faithful friends and relatives; but that the greatest of all blessings is to be indeed a Christian. ... and I, on the very brink of the grave, solemnly bear witness to you that the Almighty Redeemer, most gracious in his promises to them who truly seek him, is faithful to perform what he has promised.”