

## Episode #1111 Acts 1 Part 6-Matthias of the Twelve

I. Acts is unique in the New Testament. Rather than the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, it focuses on what came after, when the Lord had ascended back into heaven. The Lord left His disciples with many commands to carry out, and Acts tells us how they did them.

### II. The Fall of Judas. Acts 1:15-20.

A. Verse 20. Peter quotes the Psalms he only mentioned in verse 16. Psalm 69:25, Psalm 109:8, Psalms of David. Neither would have to apply to this situation. Both of them seem to be talking about events in David's lifetime. These passages find a later and even fuller fulfillment in the things that happened with Judas. The Greek word for "dwelling place" occurs only here, means a "country house" or farm. Judas bought a parcel of land with a dwelling place on it. He was planning to retire there. Now, his blood makes this house unclean. Office is the Greek *episkopen*, is related to *episkopos* or "over-watcher." The disciples were set up as over-watchers of those who believed, and Judas had his place among them. Now, he had forfeited his position, and it was time to let another take it.

### III. The Choice of Matthias. Acts 1:21-26.

- A. Verse 21. Peter was not just making things up. This was done under the direction of the Holy Spirit. "Went in and out among us" means lived his life among them. The twelve were not the only disciples the Lord had. They were chosen for special service. There were others who lived with the Lord just as closely, though they did not share the same privileges.
- B. Verse 22. Some suggest this was a wrong move, and Paul was the one God had in mind. But Paul never went in and out among them. He never saw the baptism of John, nor the Lord being taken up from them. He could not have been a witness of those things. They had important work to do from Acts 1 to Acts 8. They did not have the luxury of going on with eleven and hoping that would be good enough. Paul's calling and work were entirely separate from that of the twelve. Galatians 2:7-9. This agreement between Paul and the twelve makes it clear that their ministries were separate. The one chosen was primarily to be a witness of His resurrection. This event was well established by witnesses.
- C. Verse 23. Some suggest this was the same as Barnabas, Acts 4:36. This suggestion is interesting, but there is no particular reason to connect these two.
- D. Verse 24. This is done with prayer. These men were not acting outside the will of God. If the Lord had wished, He could have revealed that He had chosen neither of the two. Choice in Greek is *exelexo*, a form of *eklektos* or elected. Election never has to do with salvation. Matthias or Joseph were already believers, and were being chosen to special service. That is what Biblical election is all about.
- E. Verse 25. Greek word for part is lot again. Judas' lot was the ministry and the commission from which he by transgression fell. Notice that he went to his own place, the country home that he had purchased. That was why he fell, embezzling the money for this place.
- F. Verse 26. In order to fill this lot, these men cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. These are the third and fourth occurrences of the word lot in this chapter. This was not casting dice, nor was it drawing a short straw. These men made a choice, and they all chose Matthias. Joseph was qualified, and this was nothing against him. This

decision was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Matthias was chosen by the Lord Jesus just as much as the other eleven men had been. This man was now one of the twelve, and everything that applied to them applied to Him as well, including all their privileges. This was a God-made choice, and we must not forget it. Many go into Acts expecting to see the church today, and so they imagine there will be mistakes made by “church councils.” But the apostles were continuing the work that the Lord had begun, as we saw in verse one. They could no more go wrong than He could. Yet already at this point, many have gone astray in interpreting this book. This is the beginning of this mistake, yet it is certainly not the worst example of it. If it is true in this passage, it becomes multiple times truer in the passage we will consider in the very next chapter.

IV. Conclusion: Peter announced to the rest of the disciples that a replacement for Judas had to be made. This was right, and was by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Judas’ fall was not mysterious, but was through his embezzling of funds from the Lord’s purse. The replacement for Judas had to be one who had been with them from the beginning and could offer eyewitness testimony. Paul never could have fit this. They chose Matthias, and this choice was guided by the Holy Spirit. He was and will be the twelfth of the twelve. Now, all is ready for what will follow.