

Acts 1:12-26 *Called*

***Every person has (is called to) a position of service in God's kingdom. Prayer helps to discover that calling.**

I. Prayer (1:12-14)

- A. Return to Jerusalem from Mount of Olives
 1. Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem (pictures)
 2. Sabbath Day's walk was about 3,000 steps (as allowed)
 3. Pictures from Israel trip to Mount of Olives
- B. 11 apostles gathered with others
 1. Judas Iscariot already gone (dead)
 2. Mary and other women present
 3. Jesus' brothers (James and Jude included)
 4. 120 listed as total number present
- C. In one "accord"
 1. "Accord" = one "mind"
 2. Unified in the resurrection and encouraged by the return of Christ
- D. Praying for what's next (God's will to be done)
 1. God's will to be done
 2. No Holy Spirit yet so what guided them?
 3. Relationship with Christ (knowing Him personally)
 4. Scripture (only OT at this time; Psalms)
 5. Prayer is intended to focus us on God's will and the Holy Spirit's leading
 - => "Before it is to called a house of Bible teaching a house of evangelism, a house of discipleship, or a house of prayer." (O.S. Hawkins, *The Believer's Code*, August 10, page 241)
 - The disciples never asked Jesus to teach them to preach, evangelize, teach, or grow churches. We only have recorded that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Hawkins).

II. Position (1:15-20)

- A. Peter takes the lead
- B. Side note on Judas' death
- C. Uses Scripture for basis of next move
 1. Psalms 69:25; 109:8
 2. Gave credit to Holy Spirit for the prophecy
- D. Fill the "office" or position of "apostle"

1. Office = overseer; definite function or a fixed office
2. Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30

III. Person (1:21-26)

- A. Qualifications for an apostle
 1. Been with them since John baptized Jesus
 2. Stayed with them during the days of Jesus' earthly ministry
 3. Saw the resurrected Jesus
- B. The work would be as "a witness to His resurrection"
 1. Saw the resurrected Jesus
 2. Knew His commands to obey (Matt. 28:19-20)
- C. Choice narrowed to two men: Joseph (!) and Matthias
 1. Joseph given three names
 - Barsabbas: "son of God's will" "son of Sabbath"
 - Justus: Roman name; just; high integrity
 2. Matthais
 - Eusebius says one of the Seventy (Luke 10: 1-20)
 - Relatively unknown
- D. Casts lots to discover God's choice: Matthais
 1. God's choice (Proverbs 16:33)
 2. Against man's choice?
 3. God always chooses by the heart more than anything else
 4. => Moses, Ephraim and Manassa, David over his brothers

IV. Live It Out

- A. Spend time praying this week specifically and exclusively for God's will to be done.
- B. Identify your calling in the work of the Kingdom by naming your position.
- C. In what area is God calling you to work but you are hesitating because you do not fill adequate or qualified?

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