



Acts: Matthias Replaces Judas

January 11

INTRODUCTION: Acts is all about *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8*. Before we get into the heart of the action, certain preparations needed to be made: 1) a replacement for Judas and 2) the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

At the outset of Acts we see Jesus: Prepare the Disciples; Commission the Disciples; Re-constitute the Disciples; and Empower the Disciples—Apostles.

KEY POINT: preparation, re-constitute

A.M. SERMON RECAP ('Introducing Acts,' Acts 1:1–3)

- Who was Luke?
- What record did Luke leave us?
- For what reasons did Luke do it?
- Why should we study Acts?

P.M. SERMON RECAP ('Christ's Ascension and Our Commission,' Acts 1:4–11)

- How does Jesus reign over His Kingdom/Church? What did this fulfil?
- Rather than waiting for Him, what are we to be about?
- In what ways are we witnesses?
- What did they have to wait for? How is this wait during an inter-covenantal period a clue that we should not expect 2nd blessings?

READ: Acts 1:12–26

QUESTIONS:

1. *Preparation was the order of the day before the Apostles and disciples got to the work of witness. Two things were necessary to fully usher in the New Covenant: a) the sending of the Holy Spirit, and b) there to be not just 11 but 12 disciples.*
2. V. 14- What does the unity of the 120 believers speak of? What were they praying for?

3. **What do you think would happen if MBC joined together more in corporate prayer?**
4. *Peter was the early spokesman for the Apostles.*
5. V. 16- Beyond greed (Mt 26:14–16) and Satan's involvement (Lk 22:3) why did Judas betray Jesus?
6. **Note Paul affirms that David's words in the Psalms (OT) are inspired.*
7. *In Mt 27:3–10 Judas fulfilled not only Jer 19:1–13 but here is shown to have fulfilled two other prophecies as well: Ps 69:25 and 109:8. How do these find fulfilment in Judas? What do these teach us about Satan? (Jn 8:44)*
8. **Vv. 21–22- What was the criteria for Judas' replacement, i.e. to be an Apostle?**
9. *Apart from the 12 Apostles, James, Apollos and Paul no other apostles are mentioned in Scripture (Acts 14:4, 14; Gal 1:19).*
10. **While it may be fair to say that the Lord raises up apostle-like leaders, how does 1 Cor 15:8, Eph 2:20 and the fact that no apostles were sought to replace James (Acts 12) teach us there are now no longer Apostles?**
11. **Why did a 12th Apostle need to be chosen before the coming of the Spirit to empower them for witness?¹**
12. V. 26- How do we see human responsibility and divine sovereignty here? Would you be comfortable to break indecision through casting lots in faith? (Prov 16:33).

NEXT: Acts 2:1–13, Pentecost