

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 29, 2009

“The Replacement of Judas”
Acts 1:15-26
Gerry Andersen

Peter’s address to the 120 brethren (“disciples”) represented only a portion of the believers at this time (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:6).

1. The selection of Judas

a. The function for Judas (1:15-17)

1) Judas fulfilled prophecy

Note that the words of David were considered to be Scripture from the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16).

2) Judas received Christ’s love

Christ did not withhold Judas’ portion (“lot”) in the ministry.

b. The defection of Judas (1:18-19)

Matthew 27:1-10 describes the defection of Judas. Judas acquired the field indirectly through the temple priests.

The accounts of Judas’ death can be reconciled by allowing both to be true.

c. The prediction of Judas (1:20)

In some of the Psalms, the Messiah is anticipated as the coming King and these “royal” Psalms anticipate Christ. In the same way, the enemies of Israel became enemies of the Messiah in the Psalms and it is in this way that Judas was predicted in Psalm 69:25 and 109:8.

God’s enemies are seen in their opposition to God’s people.

2. The selection of Matthias

The addition of Matthias as one of the Twelve was a unique event to complete the number of apostles (cf. Revelation 21:14; Acts 6:2). There is no record of a successor appointed after the death of James (Acts 12:1-2) because Judas was replaced based on his unfaithfulness.

a. The conditions for an apostle (1:21-22)

They must have been with Jesus during His entire earthly ministry. The phrase “went in and out” was an idiom meaning familiar and unhindered access.

They must have been an eyewitness to the resurrection.

Note that both of these conditions were completely under the control of Christ.

b. The commission for an apostle (1:22)

An apostle is to present eyewitness testimony of the resurrection (cf. Acts 1:8). Their testimony has been recorded in the Scripture and has been entrusted to us.

c. The choice for an apostle (1:23-26)

Should Paul have been chosen as the twelfth apostle? No

- 1) The apostles presented two qualified men
- 2) The apostles prayed for the Lord’s guidance
- 3) The apostles picked a successor by lot

May God give us the grace to trust Him to work through the leadership of our church.