

Jesus Choses His 12th Apostle

Acts 1:12-26

Introduction

1. Peter and Judas

2. The need for another Apostle

3. Matthias: Patron Saint of Gambling?

Conclusion



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Bible Studies 2023

Icebreaker:

What are the big decisions you are making at the moment? How do you make them?

Read Acts 1:12-26

Jesus has ascended, and his followers are waiting in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to be sent.

Vs 18-19 were not necessary for Peter to say to those present that day as they would all have known what happened to Judas Iscariot, but Luke includes an update here for us. Judas had betrayed Jesus, and all of them, but Peter recognises that this had to happen for scripture to be fulfilled (references Psalm 69:25 and 109:8)

Did Jesus make a mistake in choosing Judas, given he betrayed Jesus?

Why do you think they felt the need to replace Judas for there to still be 12 chosen? Why did Judas need to be replaced?

What does it mean to be a witness? Why is this important for the early church?

How does Peter describe the office of apostle? What is required to be suitable for role?

Some people suggest that they should have waited until Paul was called to apostleship – would Paul have fulfilled the criteria they are using to make the decision?

What are the steps they take in making this decision?

The disciples believed that God could use lots to indicate who he had chosen. This was not unusual in the Old Testament (See Proverbs 16:33). However this is the only instance of Christians using lots that is recorded in the New Testament – why do you think that is?

Should we still cast lots today?

What role does prayer have in between the ascension and Pentecost?

What are some common ways to go about making a big decision in your culture? Who is involved? Who is consulted? Who makes the final call?

How can you make sure that God is at the centre of your decision making?