

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit  
In One Accord in the Upper Room  
Acts 1:12-26**

Last time...Jesus gave the 11 apostles final instructions whereby He would continue what He began to do and teach – thru the Holy Spirit (v1-2)

Then He ascended to heaven, carried in the glory of God to the right hand of the Father from whence He came a little over 33 years previously

This time...120 disciples are in one accord in an upper room

They have “socially distanced” themselves from all others in Jerusalem,  
“self-quarantining” while they wait for the promise of the Father,  
the power from on high they will receive to be witnesses of Jesus Christ

And while they are faithfully (not fearfully) waiting, they ordain a replacement for Judas Iscariot

v12-13 went up into an upper room:

The eleven apostles heed the implied instruction of the two men dressed in white apparel (v11)

They turn around and walk

- up the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives where Bethany is (Luke 24:50)
- down the western slope of the Mount of Olives into the Kidron Valley
- up the eastern slope of Mount Moriah into Jerusalem
- down the western slope of the Mount Moriah into the Central Valley
- up the eastern slope of Mount Zion into the Upper City

In the Upper City they gather in an upper room

Is this the same upper room Jesus had prepared for them to share their Passover meal, the Last Supper, 43 days (3 +40) earlier?

Mark 14:12-17

Scripture does not specify, but I think it is a reasonable assumption

Listed by name are the 11 apostles, all of whom will give their lives for their faith in Jesus Christ, with the exception of John

v14 continued with one accord in prayer and supplication:  
Present in the upper room with the 11 apostles are

- the women (from LMJC)
  - who
    - followed Jesus from Galilee (Matt 27:55)
    - watched Jesus suffer and die on the Cross
    - watched Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take His body down off the Cross and bury Him in Joseph's unused tomb
    - came at sunrise of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day to complete the burial task (anointing, spices)
    - were told by an angel that Jesus was risen and that the tomb is empty
    - saw the risen Lord
    - so told the disciples
  - Mary Magdalene
  - Mary the wife of Cleopas
  - Salome the sister of the mother of Jesus
- Mary the mother of Jesus, the sister of Salome
- the children of Mary and Joseph, Jesus' family (vs John 7:3-5)

What are all of them doing?  
Praying

How?

- continued...attended to earnestly
- with one accord...a unanimous mind
  - This is the first of 11 times this very important phrase appears in the Book of Acts
  - How many apostles are there right now? 11
  - This is the first of 12 times this very important phrase appears in the NT (Phil 2:2)
  - How many apostles are there when Phil is written? 12
  - Who recorded the words of the Holy Spirit in the Epistle to the Philippians?
  - The 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle, Paul

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead

Gal 2:8 For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles

### One accord

- the followers of Jesus Christ were unanimous, with one mind – the mind of Christ by the Spirit of Christ
- unity of the parts of the Body and the Head of the Body  
Ps 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity

### They were in one accord in

- prayer
  - worship
  - dialogue, how v2b will happen
- supplication
  - requests of man to God

### Begs the questions:

How much time do we spend in prayer, in worship and listening to the small still voice of God?

How much time do we spend in supplication, talking and crying out and making our requests of God known?

If we spent more time in prayer, might our supplications be different?

Phil 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God

1 Thes 5:17-18 Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you

Coronavirus situation: spend time with the Lord! (Ps 46:1, 10-11)

v15-16 Peter...scripture must needs have been fulfilled:

The last time the disciples/apostles were in this room, perhaps, there were 12 of them.

But during their meal Judas Iscariot was excused/expelled to betray the Lord

Now, there are 11 of them

Now, they are joined by about 109 others, a total of 120 in the upper room

Now, in the those days between the Ascension of Jesus Christ and the Feast of Pentecost, Peter stands up to tend to some unfinished business

Peter is a natural leader of men

The business needing tending: finding a replacement for Judas Iscariot

Peter, bearing

- fruit of John 14:26a
- testimony of John 5:39

announces that Scripture had to be fulfilled

- the words of the Holy Spirit
- the inspired words of God spoken/written by David, making David a prophet of God
- prophesying 1000 years prior about Judas Iscariot, foreseeing his betrayal of the Messiah
- foretelling the people of God of something of which and someone of whom they could have no knowledge

v17    numbered with...obtained part:

Peter tells the other 120 or so disciples gathered that Judas Iscariot

- was numbered with us...was one of us, was one of the 12
- had obtained part of this ministry
  - “obtain”, “cast lots”...which may shed some light on what is about to happen

○ Matt 10:1            And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease

○ John 6:70-71        *Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?* He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve

○ John 17:6            *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word*  
(Father and Son in one accord)

v18-19   purchased a field...burst asunder:

Peter now tells the disciples something they know, but this is new information for us...it is not recorded in the Gospels

With Judas Iscariot's “price” of 30 shekels of silver, a field was purchased on the south side of the Valley of Hinnom, south of the Pool of Siloam and the City of David

A place aka Tophet

During Jeremiah's ministry, Jer 18-19 took place here 625 yrs previously

- potter's house
- marred clay vessel
- broken clay vessel
- judgment against wicked Judah/Jerusalem pronounced by God
- Tophet to be called the Valley of Slaughter – place where innocent blood was shed, followed by wicked blood

Hence Matt 27:3-10

In the parlance or private language of the day, this field was called Aceldama (Chaldean word), which means “field of blood”

There, in this field, the remorseful but not repentant betrayer committed suicide by hanging himself

And when he did, he burst in the middle and, “spilling his guts”, his intestines gushed out...the internal filth was revealed for all to see when his body was discovered

v20 it is written:

The words of God are

- inspired...God-breathed
- written...by man for man
- preserved...by God Himself for man
- to be read, meditated upon, studied, rightly divided, obeyed...by man

Often we read Jesus saying, “It is written...” to hearken His listeners into the eternal Word of God

Peter quotes Ps 69:25, recorded by David about

- Near term: Ahithophel, his trusted advisor that betrayed him by helping Absalom, his son, stage a coup
- Far term: Judas Iscariot betrayal of the Messiah, the Son of David

Judas forfeited his part of this ministry, his position of leadership and oversight must be filled by another

v21-22 of these men...must one be ordained:

Peter says Judas' replacement must be someone in this upper room

Requirement: a witness of the resurrection, and eyewitness of the risen Lord

Qualifications:

- Was with us for the entirety of Jesus' ministry
- From the day He was baptized by John the Baptist
- To the day He was carried up to heaven

Questions regarding the qualifications:

1. Says whom – Peter or Jesus thru the Holy Spirit (v2b)?
2. Ordained by whom – man or God?
3. Given Peter's "checkered" history, is this an impulse of man or the inspiration of God?

v23-25 they appointed two...whether of these two You have chosen:

Who appointed/presented Justus and Matthias – the apostles or all 120 disciples or Jesus thru the Holy Spirit?

Then the disciples prayed, saying essentially, "Lord, please choose Your 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle from our choice of these 2 men.  
We chose, now You choose."

What?!

Is this in keeping with v2b?

Is this impulse or inspiration?

Is this a prayer of the flesh cloaked in spiritual words:

"Our will be done" disguised with "Your will be done."

("Neither" option was not included)

Seems like they got it backwards – appointed two and THEN prayed

v26 the lot fell upon Matthias:

How did the apostles discern the will of Jesus Christ?

By the Holy Spirit?

No, by an "old way", the casting of lots

The method used to determine

- the scapegoat (Lev)
- the tribal inheritances of the land (Joshua)
- the priests' duties in the Temple (Neh)
- who God was displeased with (Jonah)

The 11 were chosen...by Jesus Personally (v2)  
After His Ascension, Jesus' will was made known by...the Holy Spirit (v2),  
NOT by the casting of lots

The 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle, therefore, will be chosen...by Jesus Personally,  
NOT by man and NOT indirectly via the casting of lots  
The 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle will be...Saul of Tarsus, who did not "meet" the qualifications  
put forth by Peter (v21-22)  
but who did meet the requirement of an eyewitness of the risen Lord  
(v22b, Acts 9)

### **Application**

Jesus taught us to pray – not our will done in heaven but God's will done on earth  
We must be very careful to not

- direct God – this is what we want, please help us do it or get it
- dictate the choices of God...all options belong to Him

His will is perfect, ours is flawed  
He is all-knowing, we know so little (but we know 1 Cor 2:2)  
He is infinite, we are so very finite  
He is Almighty, we are very fragile  
He leads, we follow.

For example: How we have assembled here this morning, and for He knows how long

On Monday: PTL! Horizon approves our gathering  
We will meet in Horizon, business as usual  
The only question is whether or not we use the classrooms  
After all, it is obvious that is what the Lord wants us to do!

On Tues/Wed: Thru prayer (after I had chosen), the Lord clearly said that was  
NOT what He wanted, this is what He wanted...  
something new and unusual and maybe uncomfortable

- if what I've read is true, what the Gov't is saying makes sense
- Rom 13:1-5
- Not proud or defiant in our "no fear"

I was impulsive – Undoubtedly the Lord wants this Sunday to be like "the old times"  
But by the inspiration of God – a new way to meet AND to reach out!!  
Why?  
How long?  
idk

The Lord did not change our circumstances  
But the Lord is with us in the circumstances and will use them for His glory

I trust the Lord, how about you?

As we follow Jesus, we must not be impulsive, we must be inspired...  
even when it comes to no-brainer things like “doing church”

What does tomorrow bring?

idk

Will Coronavirus have a lasting impact on how we do this, as did 9/11?

idk

But I do know Who does!

God leads, we follow...by faith, not fear

Such is the history of the early Church – Spirit-led

Such we must “labor” to be!