

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 3 – Leadership Matters

Acts 1.15-26

Leadership is important

- Cannot and should not be shouldered by a single person
- 120 people depended on what happened next – that’s not a light thing

If it’s so important, why pick Judas?

- All we get: the Scriptures are fulfilled and Judas is guilty
 - It’s important to remember in a day when leaders seem to fall with regularity
 - Scriptures are clear about the danger of the brokenness within us and the world around us
 - Scriptures blame no one except the sinner: not God, Satan, spouse, parent, etc.
 - We are free to let God handle it- He doesn’t need our outrage
 - Yes, there may be consequences and ramifications in families, jobs, and legalities

What kind of leader?

Walks with Jesus

- The apostles start seeing Jesus everywhere in the Scriptures
 - John 5.39 – Luke 24
- Not just educated about Him but experiencing Him (normal outcome is humility, which is essential for leadership)
 - Acts 4.13 – uneducated men but had been with Jesus
 - Is education important? Yes! Paul – 13 books of NT – but being educated doesn’t make a leader

Has godly character

- 1 Timothy 3 – all about character
- Education and experience will fail you (9/11, Harvey) – “I don’t know what to do”
- Gifts and talents will fail you – “I cannot do this”
- Words and advice will fail you – “I don’t know what to say” – but it’s out of the heart that the mouth speaks OR doesn’t speak
- Character will be passed along long after the rest is forgotten

Says yes consistently

- Historical sources: Matthias one of 70 in Luke 10 then missionary to Ethiopia
- Both were willing to serve even though it cost them everything
 - Dying is gain – Keep life = losing it

Aside: why lots?

- Acceptable OT practice but no example after HS comes
- Leading is hard – sometimes we just don't know

Significance for us?

God uses people

- Imperfect people – because there's no other kind
- Baggage (Peter) – Temper (James and John) – Doubt (Thomas) – Nobody (Matthias)
- The people God uses are those who say yes

Say Yes – Blank Check

Experience Jesus – live with Him, every day, every place

- Cultivate an awareness to His Presence with you

Develop Character

- The trials you go through are not God hating you but developing you

But it all starts with Yes

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the greatest leader that you have ever personally known? Why would you choose that person? What changed in your life as a result?
2. When you hear the phrase “experience Jesus,” what comes to mind? If you were to describe your experience of Jesus right now, what kinds of descriptions would you use? Why those? Why is this important for a leader?
3. Amid a culture of soundbites, the Bible pushes us to think about leadership and character as intertwined. How have you personally seen the importance of character within a leader play out? What kind of difference (for good or bad) did it make?
4. Do you have a plan to intentionally develop your character? If so, what components are a part of it? If not, what is one thing that you can take on to develop character?
5. In what area of life or task is God asking you to say yes right now? What is hardest about saying yes in this area or task? What do you think might happen if you do say yes? If you say no?