

**THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING**  
**ACTS 1:15-26 / 10-27-19 / P.M.**

**I. THE OCCASION FOR THIS BUSINESS MEETING.**

- A. Peter believed it was important to immediately find a man to take Judas' position as the twelfth apostle—Acts 1:15-20.
- B. Why was it important to get their number back up to twelve?
  - 1. Jesus chose twelve men to be apostles.
  - 2. Jesus also said the 12 would play important roles in the millennial kingdom—Matt. 19:27-28.
  - 3. Although the number twelve is a "perfect number" in Hebrew thought, both Jesus and the disciples understood it literally in this case.

**II. THE CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION.**

- A. Peter mentions two criteria for any man to be considered.
  - 1. One, they needed to be a "seasoned" disciple or follower of Jesus—Acts 1:21-22a.
  - 2. Two, they needed to be willing to be a missionary, which the other eleven apparently became—Acts 1:22b.

**Acts 1:22b**

**...For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."**

- 3. Although not mentioned as a criteria, both of the men nominated were probably part of the 70 or 72 sent out by Jesus—Luke 10:1-2.
  - a. They were given power to heal the sick—Luke 10:9.
  - b. They also were given power over demons—Luke 10:17
- B. The Apostle Paul describes the kind of follower Jesus is looking for then and today—Col. 3:1-4.

**III. THE METHOD OF SELECTION**

- A. Peter records the selection process they used in replacing Judas.
  - 1. First, they were nominated by the 120 followers or "church" there—Acts 1:23.

2. Second, the church prayed for God's guidance in their selection—Acts 1:24-25.
  3. Third, the church cast lots to make the decision—Acts 1:26.
- B. Although “casting lots” is mentioned 70 times in the O.T. and 7 in the N.T. no one really knows what it is or how it was done.
1. Were they sticks of different lengths?
  2. Were they stones or coins?
  3. Were they something similar to dice?
  4. God instructed various people in the O.T. to make selections by casting lots—Lev 16:8.
  5. Solomon acknowledged that God was involved in the process—Prov. 16:33.
  6. Should we use lots to make decisions today? In a way we do because two modern words we often hear today are derived from the word “lots”—Lottery and Lotto.
- C. The lot fell on or selected Matthias to replace Judas.
1. His name is the same as Matthew.
  2. His name means “a gift from God”.
  3. He is only mentioned twice in scripture and both times are in Acts 1.
  4. He is mentioned two other times but not by name—Acts 2: 14; 6:2.
  5. He probably became a missionary as did the other twelve apostles.
- D. What about the other nominee who wasn't chosen?
1. As kids we probably remember times when we weren't chosen on the playground to join a team.
  2. We may remember a job we really wanted but didn't get it.
  3. In our text, the man not chosen was Joseph, also called Barsabbas and Justus.
  4. He is never mentioned again in scripture.
  5. How do you think he felt?
  6. If so, we don't have any record of it.

7. Neither do we hear him say “The best two out of three”!
8. As a normal person, however, he may have had moments throughout the rest of his life when he said to himself, “I wonder why God didn’t choose me?”
9. Hopefully he accepted his lost opportunity as God’s will.

#### IV. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN ABOUT HOW TO CONDUCT A CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING?

1. One, prayer must be involved—Acts 1:24.  
**Acts 1:24**  
**Then they prayed...**
2. Two, seek God’s will not our own—Acts 1:24.  
**Acts 1:24**  
**....“Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen.**
3. Three, God has a plan for His church and us—Acts 1:26.  
**Acts 1:26**  
**Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias...**
4. Scripture must be our guide in all we do in God’s church—Acts 1:16; 1:20.  
**Acts 1:16**  
**And (Peter) said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David**  
**Acts 1:20**  
**“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms...**