

Decision Making and God's Will
Acts 1:12-26

Getting Started

- ❖ Describe a time where you faced a difficult decision. How did you go about making the decision and was the decision you made the right one or not?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Unified Apostles: Joyfully Trusting and Obeying their Ascended Lord (v.12-14)
2. The False Apostle: Intentionally Rejecting and Betraying our Prophesied Lord. (v.15-20)
3. The New Apostle: Chosen to Bear Witness to our Risen Lord. (v.21-26)
 - A. Consult the Word of God for direct instruction and divine parameters.
 - B. Consult with other Believers and use your God-given faculties to narrow the options.
 - C. Pray with humility and dependence upon God asking for His wisdom and will.
 - D. Make your decision, trusting and depending upon the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Takeaway Truth: God is sovereign over all the events that create the need for our decisions

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline. Read the sermon text and answer the following:
 - What reason did Peter give for replacing Judas Iscariot in the apostolic group?
 - What qualifications did Peter state for the replacement apostle? What does this indicate about those in various modern churches who carry the title "Apostle"?
 - Why would it seem logical that the Lord should directly select Matthias to replace Judas?
 - Peter quotes from Psalm 69 and 109 to show that Judas' betrayal, death and replacement was all part of God's plan. How would you answer someone who then suggests that Judas shouldn't be held responsible for his sin since "it was all prophesied and part of God's eternal purposes"?
 - How should God's sovereignty over the events that often create the need for a decision comfort and guide us?
 - What resonated the most with you from the selection of Matthias to replace Judas?
- ❖ (For some Extra Bible Study) The setting of this passage is the "Upper Room". What other events in the spiritual lives of the Apostles had happened in this room? (cf. Luke 22:7-20, 22:21-23; 22:24-30; 22:31-34; John 13:3-17; John 20:19-23; 20:26-29)

Apply It!

- ❖ The Apostles were to bear witness to the ministry of Jesus. You did not see the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Of what can you bear witness when you testify about Jesus?
- ❖ We are baptized and indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation, but we must be filled with the Spirit in order to live a holy life and witness for Christ with power. What can you

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learn from the apostles' experience to help you be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit?

- ❖ Do you tend to rely upon yourself or the Holy Spirit when making decisions? What hinders or helps you in relying upon Him for guidance and power?
- ❖ How is your prayer life? The prayer life of your small group? As a group discuss how the “temperature and the thermostat of prayer” can be increased in your group.
- ❖ How are you building up the unity of our church? At this moment, would you evaluate yourself as “in tune” or “out of tune”?

Think About It!

Prayer is both the thermometer and the thermostat of the local church; for the “spiritual temperature” either goes up or down, depending on how God’s people pray. (Warren Wiersbe)

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that unity and prayer were the prelude to Pentecost. (William Macdonald)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year’s CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (*Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work*), John MacArthur (*MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts*), Jack Hayford (*Kingdom Power*) and Max Lucado (*Life Lessons from the Book of Acts*) are used in addition to original material.