

Acts 1:9-26 | "Waiting For God's Best"

I. THE ASCENSION. (v. 9-11)

A. (v. 9)

1. **"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."**
 - a. "cloud" - Gr. *nephelē* - often refers to the Shechinah glory of God.
 - 1) I believe that this cloud refers to the Shechinah glory of God!
 - a) Cf. [Matthew 17:5](#); [24:29-30](#); [26:63-64](#)
 - b) Cf. [1 Corinthians 10:1-2](#) - We read in Paul's 1st letter to the church at Corinth, "*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;*"
 - 2) **NOTE:** Same Greek word used in LXX for [Psalm 105:39](#), "*He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night,*" speaking of the Shechinah glory of God.
 - b. "He was taken up" - Gr. *epairó* - "raised up; lifted up"
 - 1) Jesus was DEFYING GRAVITY!
 - c. "received" - Gr. *hupolambanó* - "taken up; welcomed; received hospitably; carry upward"
 - 1) Jesus was RECEIVED up into heaven. This is the righteousness that God will accept.
 - a) Cf. [Hebrews 1:3](#) - "*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*..."

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- b) Cf. **Hebrews 9:24-26** - We read in the book of Hebrews, *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."*
- c) Cf. **Hebrews 12:2** - *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*
- 2) **KEY: The fact that Jesus Christ is right now sitting at the right hand of God is Proof of...¹**
- a) His AUTHORITY - "right hand"
- b) His APPROVAL - "by the right hand of God exalted"
- c) His ACCOMPLISHMENT - "sat down"
- i. **NOTE:** Priests never sat down! The work was never finished. However, the work of Jesus Christ is finished!
- 3) Today, Jesus' PRESENT MINISTRY is that of being our Great High Priest interceding for us in heaven!
- a) Cf. **Hebrews 4:14-16** - *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly*

¹ Cf. Acts 2:33-34; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; 4:8-10; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22

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unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

- b) Cf. **Hebrews 6:19-20** (NIV) - *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*
 - c) Cf. **Hebrews 7:25-27** - *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself."*
 - d) Cf. **Romans 8:34** - *"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*
 - e) Cf. **Ephesians 1:19-23; 4:8-10**
 - f) Cf. **Colossians 3:1** - *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."*
- d. The ASCENSION OF JESUS accomplished 3 things:
- 1) Brought finality to the earthly ministry of Jesus.
 - a) They were not to expect Him to appear anymore until He comes again.
 - 2) Demonstrated His power and glory. (v. 8-9)
 - 3) Left us a picture of what to expect when He comes again. (v. 10-11)

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B. (v. 10)

1. **"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;"**

- a. "looked steadfastly" - Gr. *atenizó* - "gazing; staring; fixing their eyes on"
- b. "two men stood by them in white apparel"
 - 1) **Q** = Who were these "two men"?...
 - a) We assume they're ANGELS.
 - i. These are possibly the same *two men* mentioned in Luke's Gospel, where "*two men in white apparel*" mentioned at the Tomb after the resurrection ([Luke 24:4-7](#)). In John's Gospel, there were "*two angels in white*", which is the same description ([John 20:12](#)). Thus, these "*two men in white apparel*" were probably the "*two angels in white*" from the Resurrection morning.
 - b) Some scholars have suggested that these were not angels because it uses the word "men", but whenever angels appear in the Bible, they always appear as *men* ([Gen. 18:2](#); [19:1](#); [Heb. 13:2](#)).

C. (v. 11)

1. **"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."**

- a. "why stand ye gazing up into heaven?"

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- 1) My 1st thought was: That's a funny question!... "Why wouldn't we be gazing into heaven? We just saw a guy float up into the sky!!!"
- 2) But, on the other hand, I think we find a lesson here: We are not to just be *gazing up into heaven*, but being about the Lord's business!
 - a) **NOTE:** Jesus told them, "*Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high*" (Luke 24:49) and "*commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father*" (v. 4).
 - i. **Q** = Where did Jesus tell them to go wait?... Jerusalem!
 - ii. **Q** = Where are they right now "*gazing up into heaven*"?... NOT in Jerusalem! They are on the Mount of Olives which is outside of Jerusalem.
 - b) **KEY:** We're not to sit around do nothing while waiting for the Lord, we're to be active and busy doing His will!
- b. "*this same Jesus*"
 - 1) It is important as we read our Bibles, that we notice small details. There is a lot said many times in the small things.
 - a) It is important that this is stated like this because many have come since that time claiming that they were a manifestation, or a 2nd coming, of Christ.
 - i. Jim Jones (1978)
 - ii. David Koresh (1993)
 - iii. Marshall Applewhite (1997), the leader of the Heaven's Gate cult, where the whole group committed mass suicide in their new Nike's over in Rancho Santa Fe (3/26/97).

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- iv. Many others.
- b) **Q** = Who is this "same Jesus" that this is talking about?... **Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God in human flesh, the 2nd Person of the Trinity!**
"This same Jesus" is coming again!
- c. "shall come *in like manner* as ye have seen Him go into heaven"
 - 1) Anyone who says that Christ has returned already is completely wrong! He is coming again "in like manner" as He went.
 - a) The Watchtower (JWs) teaches that Jesus' 2nd Coming was fulfilled in 1878 and 1914.²
 - i. Cf. **Matthew 24:23-27** - Jesus said, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: **behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."
 - 2) Cf. **Revelation 1:7** - "Behold, he cometh with clouds; **and every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."
 - 3) **Q** = Where did Jesus leave from?... The Mount of Olives!
(**v. 12** - "mount called Olivet")
 - a) Cf. **Zechariah 14:1-4** - "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh... For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle... Then shall the LORD go forth,

² http://www.alwaysbeready.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=118&Itemid=0

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*and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. **And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, [and there shall be] a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.***

- 4) **KEY:** Jesus of Nazareth ascended from the Mount of Olives, and He's coming back to the Mount of Olives! *"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

II. THE UPPER ROOM. (v. 12-14)

A. (v. 12)

1. "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey."

a. "Then returned they unto Jerusalem"

- 1) They were obedient to the words of Jesus. (v. 4)

b. "a sabbath day's journey" = 3/5 mile

- 1) This was as far as might be lawfully traveled by a Jew on the Sabbath = 2,000 paces or cubits.³
- a) Josephus tells us that the distance of the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem is between 5-6 stadia (3,125 feet = about 3/5 of a mile)^{4 5}

³ Barnes' Notes. <http://bible.cc/acts/1-12.htm>

⁴ See my notes on Luke 24

⁵ Henry Alford. Acts 1:12. <http://archive.org/stream/newtestamentfor02alfogooq#page/n259/mode/1up>

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B. (v. 13)

1. **"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James."**

a. "an upper room"

1) Some scholars believe that this is THE SAME ROOM OF THE LAST SUPPER.

a) Possibly John Mark's house?

i. Cf. [Mark 14:13-15, 51-52](#); [Acts 12:12](#)

b) Possibly in the Upper City of the South-Western area of Jerusalem, known as Mount Zion?

i. This is where the traditional site is located.

2) Other scholars believe that this Upper Room was IN THE TEMPLE PRECINCTS.

a) Cf. [Luke 24:52-53](#); [Acts 1:14](#); [2:1, 46](#)

3) Wherever the *Upper Room* was, it had to seat at least 120 people (v. 15).

C. (v. 14)

1. **"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."**

a. "These all" = The 11 apostles. (v. 13)

b. "continued" - Gr. "steadfastly continuing; enduring; continuing with intense effort; staying in a fixed direction"

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- c. "one accord" - Gr. *homothumadon* - "one mind; unanimously; agreement; same passion"
 - 1) From 2 Greek words: *homo* ("same") & *thumos* ("passion"), thus "same passion" or "same desire"

- d. "with the women"
 - 1) Cf. [Matthew 27:56](#); [Mark 15:40-41](#); [Luke 8:2-3](#); [23:55](#); [24:10](#)
 - a) Possibly...
 - i. Mary Magdalene.
 - ii. Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward.
 - iii. Suzanna.
 - iv. Mary, the mother of James the less.
 - v. Salome, the mother of James and John.
 - vi. Many other women which came up with Him unto Jerusalem. ([Mk 15:41](#); [Luke 8:3](#))

- e. "and Mary the mother of Jesus"
 - 1) **NOTE:** This is the LAST MENTION of Mary in the N.T.
 - a) Mary doesn't play a major role in the early history of the Church.
 - i. What we do know is that the Apostle John took care of her ([John 19:26-27](#)) until her death, and tradition tells us that she died in Ephesus and was buried there.
 - b) To elevate her to a place of mediation between the Church and Christ has no Biblical merit whatsoever.

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- 2) **NOTE:** The last time Mary is mentioned, she is in a prayer meeting. She is praying with them, and they are not praying to her.

- f. *"and with his brethren"*
 - 1) Mary was not a perpetual virgin after the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph had other children after the virgin birth of Jesus.
 - a) Cf. **Mark 6:3** - James, Joses (Joseph), Judah, and Simon; possibly including His sisters (at least 2).
 - 2) Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him until after the resurrection (**Mk 3:21, 31-35; Jn 7:5**), but it seems that most, if not all, of them became believers in their half-brother after seeing Him risen from the dead!

III. THE 12TH APOSTLE CHOSEN. (v. 15-26)

A. (v. 15)

1. ***"And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)"***
 - a. *"And in those days"*
 - 1) This happened during the 10 days between the Ascension of Christ and the Day of Pentecost (**v. 3; 2:1**).

 - b. *"Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples"*
 - 1) It seems that Peter was a natural leader.
 - 2) We also see him here, perfectly restored.
 - a) He failed in a crucial test.
 - b) He denied the Lord when under pressure.

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- c) He will have the opportunity to take that test again.
- 3) Peter is doing what the Lord had commanded him before the Crucifixion.
 - a) Cf. [Luke 22:31-32](#) - *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*
- 4) **NOTE:** Peter never did take the role of the Pope.
 - a) At the First Church Council at Jerusalem, Peter gave testimony ([Acts 15:7-11](#)), but the overseer that made the decision regarding the Gentile believers was James ([Acts 15:13-20](#)), not Peter.
 - b) Peter was also openly rebuked by Paul for causing a schism in the church in Antioch ([Galatians 2:11-14](#)).
- c. *"the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty"*
 - 1) In the Upper Room, there were about 120 disciples at this prayer meeting.

B. (v. 16)

- 1. **"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus."**
 - a. *"this scripture must needs have been fulfilled"*
 - 1) **NOTE:** Peter refers to the Old Testament as Scripture.
 - 2) **KEY:** They believed in the INERRANCY of the Scriptures, that they cannot be in error.

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- b. *"which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spoke"*
- 1) Peter declares that the Holy Spirit was speaking by the mouth of David.
 - a) David himself claimed that his words had Divine inspiration.
 - i. Cf. **2 Samuel 23:2** - David said, *"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."*
 - b) Jesus confirmed what David said.
 - i. Cf. **Mark 12:36** - *"For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool."*
 - 2) **KEY:** They also believed in the INSPIRATION of the Scriptures.
 - a) Cf. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**; **2 Peter 1:19-21**
 - b) **KEY:** If the Scriptures are inspired by God, then they must be inerrant!
 - i. The logic of INERRANCY:
 - a. The Scriptures are inspired by God;
 - b. God cannot err;
 - c. Thus, the Scriptures cannot err.

c. What Peter said concerning Judas:

 - 1) He was a guide to them that took Jesus.
 - 2) He was numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry.
 - a) Judas was an Apostle that was chosen by Jesus (**Luke 6:13-16**).

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- 3) He purchased a field with the reward of iniquity.
 - a) Judas himself didn't purchase the field, but it was his money that bought it.
 - i. Cf. Matthew 27:3-10
- 4) He committed suicide.
 - a) There are those that see a discrepancy between **Acts 1:18** and **Matthew 27:5**, but there is no contradiction at all. **Acts 1:18** just gives MORE DETAILS to what Matthew wrote.
 - i. **Easy solution:** Judas hung himself on a tree, and evidently the rope broke or the knot slipped, and he fell headfirst and burst open (maybe landing on jagged rocks).

C. (v. 20)

1. "For it is written in the book of Psalms..."

- a. "Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein:"
 - 1) Cf. **Psalm 69:25** - David knew what it was like to be betrayed by another.
 - a) When he was a fugitive from Saul, he was betrayed by a man named Doeg (1 Sam 21-22), and it could be that he penned these words in reference to this betrayer.
- b. "and his office let another take"
 - 1) Cf. **Psalm 109:8** - When David was betrayed, he desired that the betrayer would be desolate and that another fill the betrayer's office.

D. (v. 21-26)

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1. There has been a lot of debate over idea of Peter to find a replacement for Judas was right or not.

- a. On one hand, it can be a fruitless debate because there can be a case made for either side.
- b. On the other hand, there may be some lessons learned from this particular event.

E. Those things in **FAVOR** of the Choice of Matthias.

1. It was initiated by Peter.

- a. He was an Apostle and a leader in the Church.
- b. Paul referred to Peter as a "pillar" in the early church. (Gal 2:9)

2. There does seem to have been a need.

- a. Jesus chose 12 apostles, and now there is a vacancy. There are only 11 now (Luke 6:13-16).
- b. Jesus had told them, "Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matt 19:28)

3. There was a Scriptural basis for this choice.

- a. Peter is quoting from Psalms 69:25 & 109:8.
- b. On the surface, we might miss this insight, but after the Resurrection of Jesus, we read in Luke 24:45, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures", so Peter now has great understanding of the Scriptures.
- c. It seems that Peter was not giving his own desires, but what he believed was a requirement of the Word of God (v. 16) - "This Scripture must needs have been fulfilled..." He didn't say, "I think..."

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4. There were those among them that met the proposed requirements.

- a. Both Barsabas and Matthias met the requirements.

5. They prayed about it.

- a. We read at the end of Luke's Gospel, "*And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.*" (Luke 24:52-53)
- b. They were "continuing steadfastly" in prayer. (v. 14)
- c. They really sought God's decision when they said, "*You, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two You hast chosen.*" (v. 24)

6. They cast lots to determine the choice.

- a. Some will say, "That's where they blew it! You can't throw dice, flip a coin, and draw straws to determine God's will!"
- b. However, it was an O.T. way of determining the will of God.
 - 1) Cf. **Leviticus 16:6-10** - Lots were used to determine which goat will be sacrificed and which one will be freed.
 - 2) Cf. **Numbers 26:55-56; 33:54; 34:13; 36:2-3; Joshua 14:2; 15:1**; etc... - The Land of Israel was divided to the 12 tribes by lot.
 - 3) Cf. **Nehemiah 10:34; 11:1** - They cast lots to chose people for various tasks.
 - 4) Cf. **Proverbs 16:33** - "*The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*"
 - a) These guys knew that God is even sovereign over the rolling of the dice!

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- 5) Cf. [Proverbs 18:18](#) - "*The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.*"
 - a) Basically, the flipping of the coin can get rid of fighting.
- 6) Cf. [Jonah 1:7](#) - The prophet Jonah was found out to be the reason of the storm by those on the ship casting lots.

7. Scripture never says anything negative about this event.

- a. In fact, the Text says, "...*Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*" ([v. 26](#))
- b. **KEY:** It seems that the Holy Spirit honored this decision in the Text, regardless if the decision was right or wrong.
 - 1) Cf. [Acts 2:14, 37; 1 Corinthians 15:5; Galatians 1:18-19](#)
 - 2) **NOTE:** Eusebius tells us that Matthias was one of the 70 that Jesus sent out in Luke 10.

F. Those things in OPPOSITION to the Choice of Matthias.

1. This is the only time Matthias is mentioned in the N.T.

- a. However, we don't hear again about 8 of the other Apostles either. ([v. 13](#) - *Andrew, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon Zelotes, Judas the brother of James.*)

2. Paul becomes the dominant figure of the Book of Acts.

- a. Some will say that Peter was wrong in making this decision, and should have waited for God's choice of Paul.

3. The Holy Spirit was not yet poured out.

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- a. Throughout the Book of Acts, the Church is directed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) Cf. Acts 8:26, 29, 39; 9:10-17; 10:19-20; 13:2-4; 15:28; 16:6-10; 17:16; 18:5, 9-10; 19:21; 20:22-24; 21:4, 10-14; 22:17-21; 23:11; 27:21-25

4. The character of Peter up this point.

- a. He was an Apostle, and great guy, but he was also notorious for being a self-sufficient, take-charge kind of a guy.
- b. He was not always that spiritually discerning (Matt 16:15-23).
- c. Even later on in Antioch, Paul has to rebuke Peter publicly (Gal. 2:11, 14).
- d. He was impatient and impulsive.
 - 1) During the Transfiguration, in this holy moment, Peter interrupts it. It says, "*And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.*" (Mark 9:5-6)
 - 2) When they came to arrest Jesus in the garden, it was Peter that took out his sword and chopped off Malchus' ear! (John 18:10-11)
 - 3) During that 40 day period after the resurrection, while they were waiting for Jesus to show up, Peter said, "I'm going fishing," and the other disciples followed him (John 21:3).

5. Nothing is recorded that suggests that the Apostles were instructed to find a replacement.

- a. There was no Scriptural requirement for this, but it was Peter's idea.

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6. They may have limited God by giving Him 2 choices.

- a. (v. 21) "Which of these men..."
- b. (v. 23) "And they appointed two..."
- c. (v. 24) "...show which of these two You have chosen,"
 - 1) They had already chosen 2 guys, and then they prayed for which one God chose, but it could have been that neither one of them were God's choice!
 - 2) Some see them limiting God to these 2 men, when it could have been Paul (1 Cor. 15:8).
- d. **KEY:** So often, we pray and ask God to bless our choices instead of waiting for Him and letting Him lead us.
 - 1) So often, we limit God by giving Him 2 choices ("A" or "B"), but sometimes God desires to do "C"!

7. They cast lots, which was an Old Covenant practice, but they were now the New Covenant era.

- a. At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the New Covenant, when He gave them the cup and said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt 26:28)

8. Jesus had instructed them to wait.

- a. Cf. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4
 - 1) When Jesus told them to wait, I believe that He wanted them to wait! He didn't want them to do anything, but just be there!
- b. It seems that they were DOING and NOT WAITING.
 - 1) (v. 15) "Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples and said..."
 - 2) (v. 23) "And they appointed..."

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- 3) (v. 26) "*And they gave forth their lots...*"
- c. It could be that Peter made a mistake in being impatient and not waiting for the Holy Spirit to lead them in this decision.

G. WHAT ARE THE LESSONS FOR US TODAY?

1. **When we become impatient with waiting on the Lord, we may make decisions that hinder God's best in our lives.**
 - a. God does not do things like they are done in the world.
 - 1) God does not need a take-charge, go-to guy!
 - a) If you are a take-charge, go-to person, you will not go anywhere until you get the point that that is not what God is interested in.
 - 2) The world says, "Hurry and make a decision! Just go with your gut!"
 - a) This might be successful in business.
 - b) You might have charisma.
 - c) But when you take this into the Church, what you potentially do is mess things up! You get in the way of what God wants to do and the way God works.
 - 3) Sadly, the new model for ministry that is becoming dominant in many churches today is to look to a take-charge, go-to guy out in front leading the way!
 - a) He's got all of his degrees, experience, business background, marketing expertise, fundraising ability, and must be able to cast a vision, fund it, and be successful.
 - b) **KEY:** A great curse on the Church today is that many are looking for a man to be in charge instead of the Jesus Christ Himself.
 - 4) **KEY:** So many today are settling for far less than God's best.

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- a) **Q** = Do you realize that God can do far more for you than you can do for yourself?

2. **We need to patiently wait on the Lord and not rely on our own sufficiency.**

- a. This is difficult because we are raised in a culture that teaches us to be self-sufficient and believe in yourself. Pull up your boot straps and get'r done! But, when you become a Christian, everything changes!
- b. Impatience can cause us a lot of problems and heartbreak.
 - 1) **Illust.** - Abraham and Ishmael. (cf. Genesis 16-17)
 - a) This decision caused heartbreak because Abraham eventually had to send Hagar and Ishmael away.
- c. If there is an area in your life where the Lord is telling you to wait, don't let impatience get the best of you.
 - 1) Once you've waited on the Lord, He will empower you to fulfill what He's directed you to do (**Isaiah 40:28-31**).

3. **When making a decision, we should do many of the things they were doing.**

- a. They were in fellowship.
- b. They were in prayer.
- c. They looked to the Word of God for direction.
- d. They stepped out in faith and trusted God with their choice.

4. **Even if it turns out we made the wrong decision, we can trust God.**

- a. **Q** = What if I make a wrong decision?!... Don't worry about it!

ACTS

THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

Acts 1:9-26 | "Waiting For God's Best"

- 1) Cf. **Psalm 37:23** - *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."*
 - 2) Cf. **Proverbs 3:5-6**
 - 3) Cf. **Proverbs 16:9** - *"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."*
 - 4) Cf. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** - *"Faithful is He that calleth, who also will do it."*
 - 5) Cf. **2 Timothy 2:13** - *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."*
- b. We don't need to second-guess ourselves and live in fear of our past decisions.
- 1) The devil will often times try and get us to look back and regret decisions we made.
- c. **KEY:** I believe that we need to rest in God's sovereignty, even over our dumb decisions.
- 1) Cf. **Romans 8:28**