Sermon Highlights

Waiting on God's Timing: Lessons from the Early Church

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines Acts 1:12-26, exploring the disciples' return to Jerusalem after Jesus's ascension and their selection of Matthias to replace Judas. The message emphasizes the importance of waiting on God's timing rather than rushing ahead with our own plans. While the disciples followed proper procedures and prayed, they may have acted prematurely in selecting Matthias before receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The sermon suggests God may have intended Paul to fill the twelfth apostle position, teaching us that even well-intentioned decisions made without full spiritual empowerment can miss God's best plan. The message stresses the importance of knowing Scripture, praying with right motives, and learning to follow Christ's leading rather than telling God what we want Him to do.

Key Points:

- The disciples obeyed Jesus's command to return to Jerusalem and wait, staying within a Sabbath day's journey

- They devoted themselves to prayer and supplication in the upper room with about 120 believers

- Mary, Jesus's mother, is mentioned for the last time in Scripture, establishing proper biblical perspective on her role

- Consistent Bible reading and memorization is essential for effective Christian living

- The qualifications for apostleship required walking with Jesus from His baptism through His resurrection

- No true apostles exist today in the strictest sense, as no one alive meets these qualifications

- The disciples may have acted presumptuously in selecting Matthias before receiving the Holy Spirit

- Matthias is never mentioned again in Scripture, suggesting this may not have been God's choice

- God likely intended Paul to be the twelfth apostle, though he seemed an unlikely candidate at the time

- We must examine our motives when praying and avoid telling God what to do

- God does not always punish our mistakes immediately but allows us to learn and grow

- We should be thankful God does not answer all our prayers exactly as we ask

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 1:12-26 (primary passage)

- Psalms (referenced regarding prophecy about Judas)

- Luke's Gospel (mentioned regarding disciples praising God in the temple)

Stories:

- The account of Judas's betrayal and death in the field of blood (Akel Dama)

- The disciples' return from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem after Jesus's ascension

- The gathering of 120 believers in the upper room, including Mary and Jesus's brothers

- The casting of lots between Joseph (Barsabbas/Justus) and Matthias to replace Judas

- The implicit story of Saul of Tarsus (Paul) as God's likely choice for the twelfth apostle, though he was persecuting Christians at this time