



Sermon Notes August 21, 2022

Acts of the Apostles Series

Deciding Under the Influence!

Acts 1:12-26

Pastor Jerry Birch

Opening Point:

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

(📖 Ephesians 5:15–18)

To decide under the influence of the Lord, you must...

1. Walk in **Obedience** to the Lord!
(📖 Acts 1:12–13:1:4, Exodus 16:29–30)
2. Be united in **Prayer**!
(📖 Acts 1:14, 4:24, 12:5, 13:3, 21,5)
3. Understand relevant **Scripture**! (📖 Acts 1:15-20, Psalm 69:25, 109:6-8, Luke 24:44–49, John 14:25–27, James 1:5–8)
4. Understand the **Requirements** of the decision!
(📖 Acts 1:21-23, Ecclesiastes 8:2–6)
5. Pray **More**! (📖 Acts 1:24-25, 12:6-17)
6. Trust God for the **Outcome**!
(📖 Acts 1:26, Proverbs 16:33)

Closing Point: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (📖 Proverbs 3:5–6)

Scripture Passage for today’s Message | Acts 1:12–26

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

¹⁸ (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms,

*" 'May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,' and,
' 'May another take his place of leadership.' "*

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.