

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. See Phil 2:1-2 and Acts 1:14. What do these passages teach about the nature and necessity of unity for God's people?
 - a. "Denominations divide the church! That's why church is not for me" What principle from question 1 would help answering this question?
2. Reflect: "The hallmark of Western civilization has been rugged individualism...We have not been taught to think in terms of 'we' and 'our' and 'us.' Consequently, we 'individualize' many references to corporate experience in the NT, thus often emphasizing personal prayer, personal Bible study, personal evangelism, and personal Christian maturity and growth. The facts are that more is said in the book of Acts...about corporate prayer, corporate learning of biblical truth, corporate evangelism, and corporate Christian maturity and growth...The emphasis in the scriptural record is clearly on corporate prayer being the context in which personal prayer becomes meaningful"
 - a. Explain what this quote is identifying/describing.
 - b. Why would a Christian need a corporate prayer life as much as he needs a personal prayer one? See: Matt 26:41.
 - c. Explain the difference between "God's revealed will" and "God's concealed will." How should God's revealed will help us discern his concealed will?
3. See Luke 10:38-42; Acts 1:21-22 and 4:13. Why was it important that the candidate for apostle be an individual who had accompanied the other apostles and was 'with' Jesus?
4. See Acts 1:16-20, 2:23; Psa 69:25, 109:8. "Did Jesus make a mistake by choosing Judas?" How would you answer?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

5. Pray: What would you like your community to pray with you for?
 - a. Pray Phil 2:3-4 for your group.