

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 1:12-26

Let's Roll the Dice with Jesus

Four insights into what faith in Jesus requires of us

Acts 1:12-26

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.

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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.

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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,

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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.”

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²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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1. Sometimes faith in Jesus requires us to actively wait. (v. 4, 12-14)

- Sometimes following Jesus means having to wait faithfully.
 - Our waiting should not be idle.
 - In the waiting, we continue Jesus' last assignment to us.
 - Wait in the Word.
 - Don't wait alone.

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1. Sometimes faith in Jesus requires us to actively wait. (v. 4, 12-14)

- Sometimes following Jesus means having to wait faithfully.
- Psalm 27:11-14 – **“Wait for the LORD!”** – In the faithful waiting, our faith is being grown and our courage increased.
- Isaiah 40:28-31 – **“...they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength...”** – In the faithful waiting, we find and gather strength and encouragement for the challenges ahead.
- Psalm 46:8-11 – **“Be still, and know that I am God.”** – Our faithful waiting is faithful worship.

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2. Sometimes faith in Jesus requires us to reactively adapt to the seemingly unexpected. (v. 15-25).

- The disciples' original plan and expectations fell through.
- The disciples' lives and plans needed to match up to Scripture before the Holy Spirit would (not could) fully move.

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3. The certainty of God's providence overpowers the uncertainty of our lives... So, let's roll the dice with Jesus. (v. 26)

- When the disciples didn't know exactly what to do, they trusted God's sovereignty in their ignorance.
- Faith in Jesus is a sure bet, but the full payout comes later. (Hebrews 11:1, 39)

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4. Faith always requires us to be all in with God and trust His providence.

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