

Series: Acts

Sermon: Acts 1:8-26

Passage: 1:8-26

Illustration:

Need: The basics of obedience are the building blocks of the effective church.

I. Their return (12-14)

- Mt of Olives - east of Jerusalem, above the garden of Gethsemane, on the way to Bethany.
- Sabbath's day journey - 2000 cubits, 3000 feet, 1/2 mile. (Ex. 16:29 & Num. 35:5)
- Upper room - larger rooms were usually on the second floors of houses.
- Only Peter, James & John mentioned after this reference.
- the women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, Mary & Martha of Bethany
- his brothers - James, Joses, Judas, Simon (and sisters implied). Joseph & Mary's other children.
- 120 total were in Jerusalem. There were others certainly in Galilee (500 from 1 Cor. 15:6)

II. Peter's sermon (15-23)

- Scripture had to be fulfilled - (Psalm 69:25; 109:8, Matt. 19:28)
- The Holy Spirit spoke by the mouth of David concerning Judas - Messianic Psalms.
- The traitor Judas Iscariot needed to be replaced. (Luke tells the story of Judas' death; Matt. 27:3-10)
- A qualified candidate needed to have been a follower of Jesus since His baptism and be an eye witness of his resurrection.
- Two were qualified - Joseph/Justus "Son of the Sabbath" & Matthias.

III. Jesus' choice (24-26)

- They prayed to Jesus (Lord) asking Him to choose as He alone had chosen them (John 15:16)
- Judas turned aside from his opportunity to pursue his own agenda and the consequences it afforded.
- They cast lots - **Prov. 16:33** (Ex. 28:30, Lev. 8:8 - Urim & Thummin to be used by the high priest)
- The lot fell on Matthias - Jesus revealed His choice to replace Judas. (Paul's apostleship was unique)
- No reference to lots are found in scripture after the arrival of the Holy Spirit & the birth of the church.

IV. The Basics of Obedience

- Authentic Unity... (vs.) Fragmentation, division, & independence.
- Hunger for prayer... (vs.) Talk about prayer.
- Alignment with scripture... (vs.) Knowledge of scripture.
- Wanting & seeking God's will... (vs.) Wanting & seeking success, individual pursuits, or desires.