

ACTS of GOD #3: The Ministry Must Go On

Acts 1:15-26 1/20/2019

The Ministry Must Go On

- How do you deal with the loss of those you've served the Lord beside?
 - Situations move us, Strength leaves us, Others Go Home
 - Selfishness sabotages us, Sin severs us, Others Betray
- Judas and his demise
 - In Guilt he returned the blood-money & hung himself (Matthew 27:3-8)
 - Hypocritical priests used it to buy a field in Judas' name

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Acts 1:18-19

Reviewing the Situation

- Disciples received understanding of the Scriptures & a role in fulfillment
- Disciples received instruction to wait in Jerusalem for the Spirit's power
- Disciples received commission to be Christ's witnesses when power comes
- They are gathered in unity, continually devoting themselves to prayer

Understanding & Addressing Judas's Betrayal **Acts 1:15-17**

¹⁵ At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, ¹⁶ "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry."

- Peter addresses the brethren (the women, Mary, His brothers: 120)
 - The Scripture had to be fulfilled
 - Great description of the inspiration of Scripture
 - The Betrayal was not a surprise
 - Psalm 55:12-15: (reproached by a companion & friend)
 - Jesus warned: One of you is a devil (John 6:64,70-71)
 - Jesus sent Judas on his way
 - Judas became a guide to those who arrested Jesus
- Judas: numbered among the 12 & given his share in this ministry

²⁷ Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" ²⁸ And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Matthew 19:27-28

- Peter is remembering the promise & acting in his role
 - to feed the sheep/take care lambs/ strengthen brethren
 - to avoid the bickering & jockeying of the past

Scripture's fulfillment and Appropriate Application

Acts 1:20-26

²⁰ "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it'; and, 'Let another man take his office.'

- The Spirit reveals prophecy to Peter within the imprecatory Psalms
 - Vacancy: Psalm 69:25
 - Judas's own actions have sealed that there will be no redemption
 - He has turned aside & gone to his own place (v. 25)
 - One of the 12 thrones is vacated by unbelief
 - Replacement: Psalm 109:8
 - The office must be filled for a full witness when the power comes
 - The ministry & apostleship must go on

²¹ Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— ²² beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." ²³ So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

- External Qualifications
 - A witness of the life & ministry of Jesus, from baptism to ascension
 - A witness of the resurrection of Jesus
 - Joseph Barsabbas Justus & Matthias
- Supernatural Verification
 - The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.*

Proverbs 16:33

- Matthias appointed by the Lord before the coming of the Holy Spirit

Stepping up to the task in faith