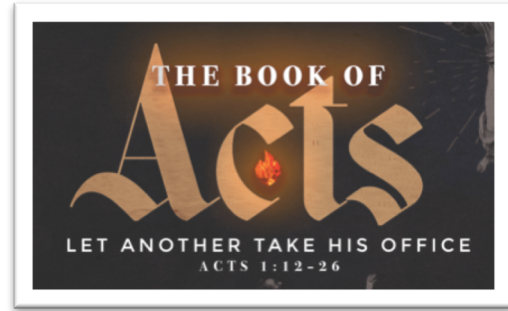


LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS PLACE

ACTS 1:12-26 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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When I am ready for the Holy Spirit to move I am eager to obey (1:12), I am in one accord with fellow believers (1:13-14a), I am devoted to prayer (1:14b, 24a), I am attentive to Scripture (1:15-20), I am clear on the mission (1:21-23, 24b-26).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Acts 1:12-26 covers the seemingly mundane details between Jesus' miraculous ascension and the extraordinary pouring out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. However, the details given in this passage reveal the remarkably faithful and intentional activities of the men and women who were devoted to continuing the work Jesus called them to do. Luke shows us that being obedient led the disciples back to Jerusalem, the same place they felt threatened because of their association with Jesus. Obedience opened the door for the next great move of the Holy Spirit in their lives. This is an example for us to follow.

- Describe a difficult choice to obey Jesus that became the precursor to a greater connection with God in your life?
- How could choosing to obey Christ in a current circumstance of fear and uncertainty open doors for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit in your life?

This passage tells us that the church started with 120 people who agreed to work together in order to present the gospel to the world. We essentially read a church roster of people who are publicly faithful to Jesus Christ and a specific mission. This is one of several strong arguments in favour of expressions of church membership.

- If you are a believer but you are not currently a member of a church, why not?
- How do you express your ongoing agreement with the people at your church to work with them to promote the gospel?

Acts 1:14 says they devoted themselves to praying together. Prayer is essential preparation as they prepared to represent Jesus to the world. This is why we say, "Without out prayer, nothing else matters."

- Are you devoted to praying with others? While a personal prayer life is essential to spiritual growth, what does praying in isolation lack when compared with what may be experienced by joining others in prayer?

When Peter speaks to the church in Acts 1:15-20, he interpreted the Scriptures (part of Psalm 69 and part of Psalm 109) to help the disciples make sense of what was happening. He showed them that Judas' betrayal did not jeopardized God's plan and he was inspired by the Scriptures to seek a replacement for Judas. His message was biblical and bold and through it, God gave the church confidence to continue with the ministry.

- Psalm 109:1-20 is one of the Scripture passages that Peter interpreted for the church regarding Judas. What are some phrases from that Psalm that foreshadow Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

Peter saw God moving his plan forward and encouraged the church to get with the program by selecting a new apostle. We read that after selecting two men who met the criteria, they prayed, and only then did they cast the lot before God to determine who would replace Judas. This was how they determined God's will between two good options for moving the mission forward.

- How do human thinking, combined effort, and community prayer set the church up to move forward together in unity when decisions must be made between several good options for personnel?
- Are there good options you've had to choose between as you seek to move Christ's mission forward? (Perhaps they were choices about careers, homes, relationships, or investments.) Why can't believers put these decisions off until it's easy to determine the answer from a human perspective alone?

As you review your answers, write down a verse from this passage or point from the sermon that you need to want to focus on this week.