

THE CHURCH BEFORE PENTECOST

ACTS 1:12-26

Introduction:

- A. The Apostles have seen Jesus ascend into heaven
 - 1) They "looked steadfastly"
 - 2) They "gazed up into heaven"

- B. The church is to, "wait for the promise."
 - 1) They are commanded to remain in Jerusalem.
 - 2) What will they do as they wait?

- I. They Assembled In An Upper Room Vs. 12-13
 - A. They returned to Jerusalem Vs. 12
 - 1) "return" = hupostrepho = "to return"
 - 2) "sabbath days Journey" = 3/5ths of a mile.

 - B. They went up into an upper room Vs. 13
 - 1) "upper room" = The study and prayer room of a Rabbi.
 - 2) "abode" = katamenontes = "down & remain", to remain down, hence to abide continually.

- II. They Functioned As A Church Vs. 14
 - A. "These all continued with one accord"
 - 1) "continued" = proskartereo = "to be strong or firm towards anything", "to endure or persevere"
 - 2) "accord" = homothumadon = "with one mind"

 - B. "In prayer and supplication"
 - 1) "prayer" = proseuche = "speaking out to", "the act of praying"
 - 2) "supplications" = deesis = "want", "need"

C. "with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

- 1) They did not separate themselves!
- 2) The family was present.

III. They Had A Business Meeting Vs. 15-26

A. The calling of the meeting Vs. 15

- 1) Peter served as moderator.
- 2) The church was assembled. 120

B. The reason for the meeting 16-20

- 1) Judas had betrayed Jesus.
- 2) It was prophesied Psalm 41:9
- 3) He "ministered" with them Vs. 17

C. The sad story of Judas Iscariot

- 1) The price of betrayal was hot in his hand and heavy on his heart.
Vs. 18 - "Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity."
- 2) Matt. 27:3-10, Zech. 11:12-13
- 3) Judas died violently. Vs. 18 - "and falling headlong, he burst
asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out." "his body
swelled up and burst open in the middle and all his vitals poured out."
- 4) His fate was well known Vs. 19

IV. Peter's Textual Sermon Vs. 20

A. "For it is written in the Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate" and
let no man dwell therein."

- 1) Psalm 69:25 "Let their habitation be desolate: and let none dwell
in their tents."

B. "and his Bishoprick let another take."

- 1) Psalm 109:8 = "Let his days be few; and let another take his bishoprick.
- 2) "bishoprick" = episkope = "office", "charge"

V. Peter's Qualifications For An Apostle Vs. 21

A. "wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us."

1) "companied" = sunerchomai = "to company or go with anyone."

B. "Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us."

1) John's baptism.

2) Constant companion.

C. "Must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection."

1) Peter felt strongly about this matter.

2) This person was to be a witness.

VI. The Church's Action Vs. 23-26

A. They appointed two

1) "appointed" = istemi = trans. "to place"

2) They placed two men before them.

3) Justus and Mathias

B. They prayed for God's guidance Vs. 24

1) They desired to know God's will

2) They asked God's help

3) They wanted a replacement Vs. 25

C. They voted Vs. 26

1) "cast lots" = kleros = "to break" = "twigs or fragments were used for the purpose of allotting or making a choice."

VII. The Right or the Wrong

A. Peter used scripture to prove that God would replace Judas

1) Vs. 20

2) The right scripture, wrong time

B. Jesus had said there would be twelve thrones for the Apostles.

- 1) Luke 22:29-30
- 2) Matt. 19:27-28 "twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel"

C. It is likely that Peter panicked and ran ahead of the Lord.

- 1) This is a report of what they did, not necessarily what they should have done.
- 2) Mathias is not spoken of again.

D. Paul was definitely God's choice

- 1) Acts 9:15
- 2) I Cor. 15:8-10