

The Apostles Try to Obey Prophecy by Replacing Judas #2 (Acts 1:12-26)

1. The 11 Apostles Return
2. The 11 Apostles Are Listed
3. The 11 Apostles Pray with Others
4. The Effort to Make the 11 Apostles 12 Again
5. Peter Presents His Idea
6. Summary of Judas and His Actions
7. David's Prophecies Connected to Judas [Ps 69:25; Ps 109:8]
8. Peter Interprets the Need
9. They Put Up Two Qualified Men
10. They Pray for God to Make the Choice
11. They Used Lots to Reveal God's Will

Did Peter Do What He Should Have in Selecting an Apostle?

Reasons For "YES, Peter did what he should have.":

1. Peter used Scripture as his motivation.
2. They were Apostles making the decision.
3. They were not reprimanded for doing this,
4. They were not directed by God to do otherwise while doing this.
5. Matthias is numbered with The Twelve (cf. 2:14; 6:2).

Reasons For "NO, Peter was in error when he did this."

1. JESUS' OWN ACTION: Jesus did not take action to replace Judas after His resurrection.
2. JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS: Jesus did not command them to replace Judas (but to wait for power to be witnesses).
3. TIMING: This was prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit and their empowerment (as believers AND as apostles). The apostles had been selected, but they had not received the full, permanent empowerment to fulfill that position (Acts 1:3-4: "Stay. Wait."). The empowerment was still future when this selection event took place.
4. TROUBLE: The Apostles were still misunderstanding the Scriptures up to the time of Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:6), making bad choices (John 21:3), even having been told multiple times of their assigned mission (Mt 28:16-20).
5. BIBLICAL INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY: The Bible contains no errors, but records the errors made by men, including many by the Apostles!
6. POSITION VS. ABILITY: Apostleship was not just a position, but it required God-given authority and abilities (direct revelation, miracles, etc.). You can appoint someone to a position but you cannot appropriate the ability for that position by your appointment.

7. PROMINENCE: Matthias is ignored by Scripture after selection. He is not mentioned again by name (though most others are not either).
8. MAN VS GOD: Peter defines, without specific direction from God, the need, the method of choosing, the qualifications to be considered, and the choices from which God must choose.
9. QUALIFICATIONS: The apostles did not meet Peter's qualifications when they were chosen. They were chosen to be with Jesus by Jesus, not because they had been with Jesus throughout His ministry (it was just beginning). Even Paul did not meet Peter's qualifications.
10. EYEWITNESSES OR WITNESSES? If eyewitnesses are the requirement for the Great Commission, the Great Commission is null and void. No one is alive today that saw the resurrected Jesus. Peter may have misunderstood the "witnesses of me" idea. We have the documented accounts in Scripture (which came later), which serve to inform us in detail of Jesus' resurrection. Acts 1:8 requires ongoing effort to reach all peoples in all places over all time.
11. CIRCUMSTANCES VS CHARACTER: Compare the qualifications of the deacons in Acts 6 to Peter's list in Acts 1. The latter focuses on the chronological experiences of the person (in part because they needed to be witnesses), and the former focuses on their proven character. Acts 1 may assume character (having been with Jesus the entire time), but it certainly doesn't highlight it.
12. KEY TRUTH: One characteristic of apostles is not listed by Peter, but seems to be the primary factor in selection: Jesus personally chose each apostle. That was true of Paul, but not of Matthias. Apostles were selected by Jesus, not by others (Acts 1:2; Lu 6:13). Jesus did not use the input of men when choosing the apostles.

This Does Not Disparage Matthias:

- Matthias was with Jesus the entire time period.
- Matthias was considered a likely candidate by the other apostles.
- Matthias was identified with and function as part of The Twelve.
- Matthias is not *disdained* for being selected.

Takeaways:

1. *The empowerment of the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to serve.*
2. *Good intentions do not override the misunderstanding, the misinterpretation, or the misapplication of Scripture.*
3. *Scripture must be rightly divided (2 Tim 2:15) and rightly interpreted to be useful for the purpose for which Scripture was written. Determining the correct recipient is of key importance to understanding a passage.*