

Sunday Morning Message

April 21, 2024

The Lord Said to Tarry

Topics – Waiting for the Holy Spirit

Text for Today's Message – Acts 1:12 - 26

Congregational Reading – Acts 1:

Introduction

Read vs. 1 – 11 for review.

The Lord's instructions were very clear:

"4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:4-5)

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." - (Luke 24:49)

It is interesting that even though the Lord told them to wait, In the ten-day period that they were waiting, the apostles took it upon themselves to do some things.

I. At First, They Complied with the Lord's Request (vs. 12 – 14)

They are Waiting.

They are Praying.

Notice in v. 14 that Jesus' brethren are now present. They were not fully on board before the resurrection (John 7:5), but now they are included with the rest of the believers.

II. They Became Concerned with Replacing Judas (vs. 15 – 22)

First, let us notice who Peter thought would be a good candidate for becoming the twelfth apostle and replacement for Judas. The man had to have been around since the beginning and was witness to the resurrected Lord and his ascension into Heaven.

We know of another qualification for apostleship. They had to be chosen by the Lord. The question is: Was Matthias the choice of Jesus?

Two schools of thought on this:

- 1 Peter was simply “seeing the need and taking the lead”. He was demonstrating initiative. Jesus had told the disciples that whatever they had bound on earth – He would bind in Heaven (Matthew 16:19; 18:18).

"18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

"18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18)

People who think that the apostles had the right to appoint another apostle, usually also believe that there are many more apostles than just the 12.

Peter referred to Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8

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

"Let his days be few; and let another take his office." - (Psalm 109:8)

- 2 The Apostle Paul is the 12th apostle. He was the one chosen “out of due time”.
(See 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11)

"1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

In the New Jerusalem there are 12 foundations named after the “12 Apostles of the Lamb”.
(See Revelation 21:9 – 14)

"9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:9-14)

This was not what the Lord told them to do. He told them to wait.

Note – we don't like to wait, do we?

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." - (Psalm 27:14)

The Lord chose Judas. He could certainly choose a replacement.

This is a pretty important decision. Before choosing a new apostle, you would think that they had the Lord's mind.

We need to be just as careful when making decisions like this:

Choosing a spouse

Deciding the Lord's will for a career

Choosing a church

Selecting a Preacher or Deacons

III. Eventually, They Casted Lots for a Replacement (vs. 23 – 26)

Is it just me or does the method of choosing between these two men seem to be a little weird. However, they did use this method in the Old Testament. During the great storm on the sea, the men on the ship with Jonah cast lots to discover that Jonah was the one who the Lord was mad at (Jonah 1:7).

"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD." (Proverbs 16:33)

Note: Judas went to his own place.

Matthias is not mentioned again in Scripture.

Theologians are mixed as to who is the twelfth apostle and as to whether Peter was right to have had this business meeting to select Matthias:

Jay Adams said: “The 120 were about to receive supernatural help from the Spirit; yet they were moving out on their own to make this crucial decision without His guidance. They didn’t **wait**.”¹

Warren Wiersbe said: “No, Paul was not meant to be the twelfth apostle. Peter and the other believers were in the will of God when they selected Matthias, and God gave His endorsement to Matthias by empowering him with the same Spirit that was given to the other men whom Jesus had personally selected (Acts 2:1–4, 14).”²

McGee stated: “I can’t see that this was the leading of the Holy Spirit, nor that it was God’s leading in the casting of lots. Is Matthias actually the one who took the place of Judas? I don’t think so. I believe that, in His own time, the Lord Jesus himself appointed one to take the place of Judas Iscariot. We don’t hear another word about Matthias—nothing is recorded of his ministry. I think the Holy Spirit ignored Matthias. It is my conviction that the man the Lord chose was Paul.”³

Conclusion

What have we learned from this first chapter of the Book of Acts?

1. God has a job for us to do – the Great Commission (v. 8)
2. That job begins with prayer (v. 14)

They were not sure where to begin but they were told to wait until the Holy Spirit came. While they were waiting, they prayed.

3. The job requires the power of the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

"18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"
(Ephesians 5:18)

Being filled with the Spirit means to be completely yielded to Him. You want what He wants. You are willing to do what He wants His way. He is in control.

¹ Jay E. Adams, *Acts*, The Christian Counselor’s Commentary (Cordova, TN: Institute for Nouthetic Studies, 2020), 6.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 406.

³ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary*, electronic ed., vol. 4 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 514.