

THE IMPORTANCE AND POWER OF PRAYER -- ACTS 1:12-26

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastors Chuck Smith, David Hocking, Jon Courson, Warren Wiersbe and others.

RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR UNITY AND FAITHFULNESS!– VS.12-14

Act 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

Act 1:13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying:

Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

Act 1:14 These all continued with one accord (passion) in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD’S WORD IN WHAT AND HOW YOU PRAY – VS. 15-22

Act 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

Act 1:16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR UNITY AND FAITHFULNESS!

- Acts 1:12-14- to have power in prayer, we need to have faithfulness and unity.

v. 13 “the upper room” - The place where this occurred – cf - Luke 24:53

The historic site does not allow for sleeping there unless they all slept on the floor in those crowded conditions. They were there for about seven-ten days –cf - Acts 1:3, 12; 2:1

Vs. 13-14 “Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

Act 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” - The people involved – 11 apostles, women (including Mary), brothers of Jesus - Mark 6:3 – total of 120

v. 14 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.” – Their perseverance involved –cf -Acts 2:42 – cf - Luke 18:1-8 (example of our Lord – Luke 6:12); Ephesians 6:18

REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD’S WORD IN WHAT AND HOW YOU PRAY – VS. 15-22

v. 16 “which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David As to why things happen as they do – as prophesied! – Acts 1:16-19 –

The Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David – clear statement of inspiration! - Psalm 41:9; 55:12-13; cf – 2 Samuel 15:30-31; John 6:64-71; 13:11, 18; 17:12 – what Jesus said.

“THE POWER OF PRAYER”- Acts 1:12-26

Review of the Indwelling/Power of the Holy Spirit:

First two relationships: “with” (*para*) & “in” (*en*)
Joh 14:17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Third relationships upon (*epi*):
Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Our appropriation of the Holy Spirit, being Spirit filled, comes upon by simply believing in our Lord Jesus Christ! - *John 1:11; 3:16; Eph. 2:8*

When the Holy Spirit has us, comes upon us, there is that mighty outpouring of power! - *Acts 1:8*

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Act 1:17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

Act 1:18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

Act 1:19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Act 1:20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'LET HIS DWELLING PLACE BE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE LIVE IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE.'

Act 1:21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

INTERPRETATION

V 20. "LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE." - As to WHAT should be done about it – Acts 1:20-22; Psalm 69:25; 109:8

Judas was not replaced because he died.

James died in Acts 12:2, and was not replaced. Judas was replaced because of his betrayal.

The Scriptures, therefore, give clear instruction as to what we should pray for.

In the case of Judas, it was clear.

In the case of James, no scripture was involved – no prayer meeting to replace him!

APPLICATION

Waiting On The Lord--on the Holy Spirit:

Reasons:

Transition: "Selah"; Stop and think about it, not just taking someone's word for it!

Protection: Danger of trying to do something in our own logic and energy. Vs. Acts 1:15-26? Speaking or doing something logically, Peter says, the Scriptures say....before the empower of the Holy Spirit given in Chapter Two. Fulfilling Scriptures without waiting on the Holy Spirit. To go off half-cocked based on your own understanding.

His Vision: Jer 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Evaluation: Ez. 37:1-14 His preaching created commotion/shaking/hype, but no creation (v. 7); then (v. 9), no longer bones rattling around, but they became an army!; Acts 1:8!! We need the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon us!

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Act 1:22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

RELY UPON THE LORD TO ANSWER PRAYER – Acts 1:23-25

Act 1:23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

Act 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all,

show which of these two You have chosen

Act 1:25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

RELY UPON THE LORD TO ANSWER PRAYER – Acts 1:23-25

v. 24 "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, - The Lord's knowledge – cf. – Acts 15:8; Matthew 6:8, 32; Romans 8:26-27

v. 24 "show which of these two You have chosen" - The Lord/s direction!

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RESPOND WITH FAITH THAT HE WILL ANSWER PRAYER – Acts 1:26; Hebrews 11:6

Act 1:26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

RESPOND WITH FAITH THAT HE WILL ANSWER PRAYER – Acts 1:26; Hebrews 11:6

v. 26 “And they cast their lots” – was this taking a chance: (there seems to be an element of risk whenever we walk by faith!)

Proverbs 16:33 establishes this practice

Leviticus 16:8 - Aaron cast lots for the two goats on the Day of Atonement as to which was for the Lord and which was for the scapegoat.

1 Samuel 14:40-42 - Saul cast lots to determine why God did not answer him when he inquired about going after the Philistines – Jonathan was taken.

Joshua 7:14-21 - It appears that Joshua cast lots to determine the sin of Achan.

Nehemiah 10:34 - Israel cast lots for the supply of wood for the priests to burn on the altar.

Nehemiah 11:1 - they cast lots to bring one out of ten people to live in Jerusalem.

Illustration – Exodus 14:10-22, 30-31

Questions:

1. Would you agree that prayer is one of the most important ministries that one can have?
2. Do you think that God knows what we are going to pray for before we pray? Then why pray. Should we pray more than once? (Lk. 18:1)
3. Did the Holy Spirit come “on time” because they were praying in the upper room?
4. Was the use of casting lots ever used again in the Bible following it’s use here in selecting Matthias?
5. Does the Bible teach that you have to be worthy to receive the power of the Holy Spirit?
6. Are we ever to wait for the Holy Spirit (v. 4) Do we ever wait on the Holy Spirit? Transition-what does the Bible say?;
7. Do you think your ministry and your life can be dramatically affected by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the coming upon us by the Holy Spirit.)
8. Does the Bible teach that the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon the believers over and over or just one time?