

ACTS 1:15-26 – 2026 - MATTHIAS IS CHOSEN!

5/23/26 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com <https://www.ptwente.com>

(Joh 20:22) And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD – Edward Hatch – York College Choir (1:56/1:58)

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity. of Thine eternity.

(Act 1:15-17, 20-26) 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, [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; [17] for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." [20] "For it is written in the Book of Psalms (Psa 69:15, 109:8): 'LET HIS DWELLING PLACE BE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE LIVE IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE.' [21] "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, [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." [23] And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. [24] And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen [25] to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." [26] And they (120) cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. [24] And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen [25] to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." [26] And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

AND THEY PRAYED FOR A SUCCESSOR FOR JUDAS:

[24] And they prayed and said,

- They prayed first, and it was easy to pray because they had already been praying (*Act 1:14*).
- Their *doing what Jesus would do* was notable. How did Jesus choose the disciples? He prayed (*Luk 6:12-13*), even as these disciples did, to see who the Lord would add to their number.

"You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all,

- A character peculiar to the one only living, and true God; for none knows the hearts of men, but God, who is the Maker of them; and he knows all the thoughts, counsels, and purposes of them, and the good or bad that is in them.

show which of these two You have chosen

- They were desirous of having their choice directed by the choice God had made, in his eternal mind; and which they desired might be signified and pointed out to them, in some way or another, that they might be certain of the mind and will of God, and act according to it.

[25] to take part in this ministry and apostleship

- Of the ministry of the apostles, which lay in preaching the Gospel, administering ordinances, planting

churches, and working miracles; and which part, lot, or inheritance, Judas had; see (*Act 1:17*).

from which Judas by transgression fell,

- By betraying his Lord, whose apostle he was, he was turned out of his office, and no longer part in the apostolic ministry:

that he might go to his own place."

- This may be understood of Judas, and of his going to hell, as the just punishment of his sin, which is commonly so called by the Jews.

[26] And they cast their lots,

- Many people have questioned the method for choosing one of the two men - after all these great spiritual steps, they end up rolling dice to pick the winner. Is this any way to choose an apostle?
- Their reliance on God is notable. Though they were not yet filled with the Holy Spirit, as they would be, they still wanted to choose a method that would make them rely on God. (***Pro 16:33***) *The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.*
- The casting of lots may be an imperfect way to discern God's will, but it is much better than the methods many Christians use today, relying on emotions, circumstances, feelings, and carnal desires.
- Some have questioned is the casting of lots really an excellent way of determining the will of the Lord. It is sort of drawing straws.
- Was it a mistake in limiting God, in only giving Him two choices? Lord, you want me to do this or that? Well maybe He had something entirely different of which you haven't even thought. But we limit God by the options that we offer Him.

And the lot fell on Matthias.

- Was Matthias the right man for the job of the twelfth apostle?
- Some insist that Matthias was the wrong choice and the use of lots was not right. The idea is that God would have chosen Paul if the office had been left vacant. But should we not respect the testimony of the Scriptures; God did not want to leave the office vacant. If He did, it might be seen as a victory for Satan - Jesus picked twelve, but one came up short and defeated Jesus' desire to have twelve apostles.
- Even though we read nothing more of Matthias, that alone should not be assumed as being a poor choice. Except for Peter and John, none of the original twelve are mentioned again after (*Act 1:1-26*). Matthias was no more of a poor choice than Matthew, Andrew, Thomas, or any of the others.
- Paul considered himself an apostle, but (***1Co 15:8***) *Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.* It doesn't seem that he objected to the selection of Matthias.

And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- He took his place among the apostles. He was registered among them, and ever after was said to be one of them. Their number being now complete. (***Act 2:14***) *But Peter, standing up with the eleven,*

SUMMARY:

- **How we need prayer; the Word and the Holy Spirit to make decisions**
- **At the time of this prayer, the Holy Spirit had not yet been fully poured out as it just preceded Pentecost.**
- **They did consider the Word of God in following a procedure mentioned of casting lots.**
- **We should never limit God is asking for specific limits on our prayers – “*which of the two*”?**
- **May we always be led by the Holy Spirit, which since Pentecost has been poured out on all believers!**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- **Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority**
- **Police officers/military. Supreme Court Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown.**