

### **Context**

- 1] After the resurrection of Jesus he appeared to his disciples for 40 days (1:3)
- 2] When Jesus left, he told his disciples to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (1:6)
- 3] The disciples returned to Jerusalem and waited in prayer together (1:12-15)
- 4] There were 10 days till Pentecost ('Pentecost' = 50 days after Passover)

### **Intro**

Correction of a young child who is trying – angry restrictive or encouraging and directive?

Commentators disagree whether Paul was right or wrong to appoint a replacement Apostle to Judas

### **The situation (15)**

#### **1] (15) in those days**

*1e 40 days after Passover, 10 days before Pentecost*

#### **2] he stood up**

*Cf Authoritatively (5:34; 11:28; 13:16; 15:7)*

#### **3] among the brothers (the company was in all about 120)**

*Nb 10 the number of the apostles*

*\*God chooses the number who will believe\**

### **The vacancy (16-20)**

#### **1] (16) Brothers**

#### **2] Scripture**

##### **a) Had to be fulfilled**

*Cf 'For I (Jesus) tell you that Scripture must be fulfilled' (Lk 22:37)*

*Cf My word .. shall not return to me empty ((Is 55:11)*

*\*God's Word/Scripture must be fulfilled\**

##### **b) Which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the HS by the mouth of David**

*Cf Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:21)*

*\*The Holy Spirit speaks through men\**

*\*Submit to the authority of God's Word\**

#### **3] concerning Judas**

##### **a) who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus**

*cf Judas, would you betray the son of man with a kiss (Lk 22:48)*

##### **b) (17) For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry**

*He was numbered with the 11 Apostles (Lk 22:37)*

*Nb Judas was chosen as an apostle by Jesus after prayer (Lk 6:12-16)*

*\*God chooses those who will fail\**

\*Do not assume all who numbered among God's people and who are allotted a share in God's ministry are Christ's.\*

c) **(18) Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness**  
*nb very strong word – anti God (Acts 3:26; Jas 1:21; Heb 1:9)*

d) **and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out**

*cf the curse of the adulterer - 'May this water that brings the curse pass into your bowels and make you womb swell and your thigh fall away (Nu 5:22)*

\*Fear the judgment of God\*

e) **(19) And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem**

\*The fear of God's judgement spreads like wild fire\*

f) **so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.**

4] **(20) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms**

a) **"'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it' (Ps 69:25)**

b) **and "'Let another take his office.' (Ps105:8)**

*cf mistaken use of scripture – "Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish (Jn11:50)*

\*The Lord replaces in His purposes those who reject Him\*

## **The choice (21-26)**

1] The reasoning – **(21) So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (22) beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us -- one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."**

**cf Apostles continued to testify to the resurrection (4:33) cf Paul (13:30,31)**

*'(to Paul) the Lord said ...I...appoint you as a servant and a witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you...' (Acts 26:16)*

\*JESUS' resurrection is the touchstone for the truth of all His claims\*

\*Note – the prime task of a disciple is to witness to Christ's resurrection. – in this is the proof of all His claims\*

2] **(23) And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.**

3] **(24) And they prayed and said,**

a) **"You, Lord, who know the hearts of all,**

b) **show which one of these two you have chosen (25) to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."**

*Cf Judas - son of perdition (Jn 17:12) – his place ie lost eternity*

\*The Lord knows the hearts of all men\*

\*Beware of giving the Lord a choice of two and assuming one is correct!\*

**4] (26) And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles**

*Cf Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats (Lev 8:8; 16:8)*

*15ff ?GRACE      God allows us to get it wrong and doesn't condemn us?*

## **Did God direct peter to appoint another Apostle?**

1] Jesus appointed 12 Apostles (Lk 6:13) at the start of ministry

2] Peter showed great perception and blindness

a) Before the resurrection (*Matt 16:13-23*)

b) After the resurrection (Acts 2:14ff; Gal 2:11ff)

3] Peter was told to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4,5). As he waited they appointed another apostle

4] Casting lots (1:26) was an Old Testament practice not repeated elsewhere in the NT

5] Gods said Paul is 'a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15)

Paul 'an Apostle though one abnormally born (*1 Cor 1:1; 9:1; 15:8,9*)

6] the New Jerusalem is built on the foundations of the 12 Apostles (Rev 21:21:14)

## **Conc**

1] If Peter was wrong, note

1) the grace with which God treats Him – he allows him to get it wrong and simply flows around his mistake

2) the sovereignty of God – He calls his chosen one the Apostle Paul.

2] Note - God's ways – not ours (Is 55:8)

Peter could never have imagined that God would call 'the antichristian' Saul of Tarsus to be Jesus' Apostle to the Gentiles.

3] Be faithful to Scripture but humble about the right thing to do and the right time to do it – you may have got it wrong!

**MP** *Do not assume with God – the right thing at the wrong time is the wrong thing*

**KV** *So, one of the men ..... must become a witness to the resurrection' (21, 22)*