

Seventh Sunday of Easter – 2024

Saturday, 5/11 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/12 at 9:00



# Are You Seeking and Doing God's Will?

Text: Acts 1:12-26 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: *Going back to the time of [Acts chapter 1](#)*: Much has happened in the last two months:

- Judas betrayed Jesus and ended his life.
- Jesus finished His work and laid down His life.
- God raised Jesus to life on the third day.
- Jesus showed many people that He was alive.
- 40 days after Jesus was raised, He ascended into heaven.

**Now**, we are on the weekend between ✦ Jesus' ascension into heaven and ✦ God pouring out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. In our [Acts](#) series, this is number **7 of 9**. We are in [Acts chapter 1](#); *Jesus just ascended into heaven. Now what?*

1. **The Setting:** [Acts 1:12](#) **Then** [after Jesus had ascended] **[Jesus' disciples] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away** [about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile]. <sup>13</sup> **When they had entered the city [of Jerusalem], they went up to the upper room where they**

were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son of Alphaeus*, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son of James*.<sup>14</sup> These all with one mind [*with no division among them*] were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- a. The Upper Room: We learn from Acts 12:12 that the upper room was part of the house owned by Mary, *the mother of Mark, who wrote the second gospel account*. The upper room is where **✦they** ate the Passover meal, **✦Jesus** instituted the Lord's Supper, **✦Jesus** appeared on Resurrection Sunday, and **✦Jesus' disciples** stayed whenever they returned to Jerusalem.
- b. Jesus' Eleven Apostles: 11: The **12 minus Judas Iscariot**, who betrayed Jesus and ended his life (Mt. 27:3-5).
- c. Certain Others are Mentioned:
  - i. Women: Matthew recorded that many women, *who had followed Jesus from Galilee*, were present at Calvary (Mt. 27:55), and many or all were probably in the upper room.
  - ii. Jesus' Mother: She was the woman chosen by God **✦through whom the Son of God put on human flesh and ✦who raised Him from birth**. However, **Acts 1:14 is the last time Mary is mentioned in the Bible; now the focus is on proclaiming Jesus!**
  - iii. Jesus' Brothers: Prior to Jesus' death and resurrection, *they did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah*. That is why Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to John (John 19:26-27). However, now, **by the grace of God, they are repentant believers.**

2. **The Need to Replace Judas:** <sup>15</sup> At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together [*the ones named and other believers*]), and said, <sup>16</sup> “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.” // Judas was **NOT predestined** to betray Jesus, **BUT GOD**, according to His divine foreknowledge, knew in advance what Judas would do.
- a. What Happened to Judas: <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness [*a field that was bought with the blood-money he returned*], and falling headlong [*after he hanged himself (Mt. 27:5)*], he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)
- b. What David Wrote: <sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT [*Ps. 69:25*]’; and, ‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE [*Ps. 109:8*].’” // Bible numbers are important: The **12 sons of Jacob** (*Israel*) symbolize all the OT believers, while the **12 apostles** symbolize all the NT believers; 144,000 (12 x 12 x 10 x 10 x 10) symbolizes all believers (Rev. 7:4; 14:1, 3).
3. **The Qualification to be an Apostle:** <sup>21</sup> “Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us-- <sup>22</sup> beginning with the baptism of John until the day that

**He was taken up from us-- one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.** // The only qualified men were the men who had been with Jesus and the 12 *from His baptism through His ascension.* Note: The man who was chosen ***became a witness of Jesus' resurrection.***

4. **The Qualified:** <sup>23</sup> **So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.** // Only two men met the qualifications: **Joseph** and **Matthias** – *only they made the final list.*
  
5. **Letting the Lord Make the Choice:** <sup>24</sup> **And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen** <sup>25</sup> **to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”** <sup>26</sup> **And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.**
  - a. The Lord's Choice: As Jesus chose the original 12, so *He chose the replacement for Judas.* **But how?** *Through the drawing of lots!* They brought the choice to Jesus through prayer; then they trusted that the lot that was chosen was the choice of the Lord.
  - b. Matthias: He replaced Judas, *then he went to preach the gospel.* He served Jesus, *and then died as a martyr.*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, as Your ancient followers ✦sought Your will, ✦served You with their lives, and ✦died loving You more than life on earth, **so help us to be fully convinced that Your will is best; then give us faith and courage to do it!**

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230