

# THE DISCIPLE NOT CHOSEN

## Introduction

- 1) After the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the eleven apostles returned to Jerusalem and joined other disciples in an upper room (Acts 1:12-14)
    - a) The apostles awaited the “promise of the Father” when they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (vv. 4-5)
  - 2) During that time, Peter stood up in the midst of about 120 disciples and began the effort to find a replacement for the apostolic office left vacant by Judas Iscariot (v. 15)
- I) **The Need for Another Apostle** (Acts 1:16-20)
- A) Judas was a chosen apostle of Jesus – “numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry (v. 17)
    - 1) Jesus made no error – Judas had an equal opportunity to be a faithful and dedicated apostle
    - 2) Judas “became a guide to those who arrested Jesus” (v. 16b)
      - a) “Became” – *ginomai* (Gk) “signifies a change of condition, state or place” (Vine)
      - b) Became the betrayer of Jesus by his own choice to follow Satan (Mk. 14:18-21; Jn. 13:27)
    - 3) A sad and dreadful end for Judas as he ends his own life (vv. 18-19; Matt. 27:3-5)
      - a) If only he had sought forgiveness from the loving Shepherd and Savior of men!
  - B) Fulfillment of Scripture
    - 1) Holy Spirit spoke by the mouth of David (vv. 16a, 20)
      - a) **Psalm 69:25** – Judas forfeited the right to his “place” as apostle
      - b) **Psalm 109:8** – Judas was found unworthy, so another should take his place

## II) **Another Apostle Chosen** (Acts 1:21-26)

- A) Qualification – one who accompanied the apostles from Jesus’ baptism to ascension, and had become a witness with them of His resurrection (vv. 21-22)
  - 1) Two men put forward: **Joseph Barsabbas Justus** and **Matthias**
  - 2) Prayer offered to Lord who knew the heart and had exclusive right to choose a new apostle
- B) They cast lots and **Matthias** was chosen – was numbered with the eleven
  - 1) Participated fully on Pentecost and beyond (Acts 2:4, 14, 32; 5:12; 6:2)

## III) **The Disciple NOT Chosen**

- A) **Joseph Barsabbas Justus** was proposed, but *not* chosen by God to be an apostle
  - 1) Disappointed? Who hasn’t been disappointed when not chosen for something important
  - 2) This may have been the *second time* he was not chosen (Lk. 6:12-16)
  - 3) Continued to follow Jesus even when others did not (Jn. 6:66)
  - 4) Likely one of the seventy appointed by Jesus to be sent out (Lk. 10:1)
- B) As a faithful disciple, Joseph would *not* have reacted in an ungodly manner
  - 1) Not leave in anger, accuse of cheating, wallow in self-pity, or give up faith (Eph. 4:31)
  - 2) Would be thankful, rejoice with Matthias, and pray for the cause of truth (Rom. 12:9-10)
    - a) Must humbly respect and accept the will of God in *every* matter (Rom. 10:17)
  - 3) Though he was not chosen to be an apostle, he could be an important and useful member of the early church (Acts 2:41-47; Judas Barsabbas [his brother?] Acts 15:22, 32)
- C) If you happen to be the one “not chosen,” you should...
  - 1) Not feel like a forgotten failure – there is a place for all; some setbacks can be a blessing
  - 2) Pray and seek more open doors of usefulness in the Lord’s service (Rom. 12:1-8)
  - 3) Still be a godly and faithful employee, friend, church member (Col. 3:23-24; Matt. 6:33)
  - 4) Focus on God and truth, your faith and hope – don’t let Satan devour you (Phil. 3:13-14)!

## Conclusion

Jesus was rejected of men, but the Chosen of God (Isa. 53:3; 1 Pet. 2:4). If you obey Christ today, you will be part of those **chosen** by God through the gospel (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Eph. 1:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13).