

"Judas' Replacement"

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight as we return to our study of the book of Acts, we are going to listen to Peter as he is moved by the Lord to speak to those who are waiting at Jerusalem in the upper room.

Notice Acts 1:12-13

They were gathered together in obedience to the Word of the Lord as He had commanded them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit.

Luke 24:49-52

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

⁵¹ And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

As we approach our text for tonight, we will see that Peter is going to speak concerning the need to replace Judas.

"The Need for Replacement"

Notice Acts 1:15

Peter has become the spokesman for the Apostles, and he understands the need to fill the office of Judas. Now the need to replace Judas was not because he died but it was because he was wicked and unsaved. I want to back this up with the Scriptures.

Peter was there the night in the Garden when Judas betrayed the Lord. Peter had cut off the ear of Malchus.

Luke 22:47-50

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

John tells us it was Peter who cut off Malchus' ear.

John 18:10

10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

I point this out to help you to understand that Peter knew at this time what Judas was like. He knew he was wicked. Peter also knew something else.

Matthew 19:27-28

27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Here in this conversation Peter learned that the twelve disciples would sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel in the Kingdom. After the betrayal of Judas, Peter understood that Judas would not be in the Kingdom because he was not saved. There was therefore a need to fill his office. Not because he died but because he was unsaved. Let me show you one more thing to back this up.

Acts 12:1-2

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

James was killed but he was never replaced. Why? Because James was saved, and he will be resurrected to sit upon one of the twelve thrones in the Kingdom.

Getting back to the point, Peter knew, after the betrayal, what Judas was, and he knew there was the need for a twelfth Apostle.

Notice Acts 1:15-16

Peter here references the words of David concerning Judas. Now there are several verses that pertain to Judas in the Psalms.

Notice Acts 1:20

I believe that Peter has in mind three different verses between Acts 1:16 and Acts 1:20.

Psalm 41:9

⁹ *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

This was likely the verse that he was thinking of in Acts 1:16. In Acts 1:16 Peter is speaking of the betrayal of Jesus Christ. Then in Acts 1:20 he is speaking of filling his office and most likely was thinking of the following Psalms:

Psalm 69:25

²⁵ *Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.*

Psalm 109:5-8

⁵ *And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.*

⁶ *Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.*

⁷ *When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.*

⁸ *Let his days be few; and let another take his office.*

Let us keep in mind that after the resurrection the eyes of the disciples were opened concerning the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Luke 24:44-45

⁴⁴ *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

⁴⁵ *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*

Notice Acts 1:17

Here is a very interesting and also a very alarming verse. Judas was numbered with the disciples and even had part in the ministry. If we were to search the Gospels, we would see that Judas is called "ONE OF THE TWELVE" seven times in the Scriptures.

Matthew 26:14

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

I am not going to give you the other verses but here are the references.

Matthew 26:47, Mark 14:10, Mark 14:20, Mark 14:43, Luke 22:47, John 6:71, John 20:24

Not only was Judas NUMBERED with the twelve, but the Bible tells us he was also chosen to be an Apostle.

John 6:70-71

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

This then raises an important question, "Why did Jesus choose Judas knowing that he would never get saved?"

1. He would be used to show the accuracy of the Word of God.

This is seen in the prophecies of the Psalms concerning Judas.

2. He would be used to carry out the plan of God.

The actions of Judas would be used by God to bring about the greatest Sacrifice ever made by man. While his actions would be used by God, Judas would still be accountable for what he had done.

Acts 2:22-24

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

3. He would be an example of how no one, not even Satan cannot thwart the plans of God.

John 13:21, 26-27

²¹ When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

²⁶ Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

²⁷ And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Isaiah 14:24-27

²⁴ The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

²⁵ That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

²⁶ This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

²⁷ For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Lessons from the Life of Judas

1. Service does not determine salvation.

Judas served the Lord with the other disciples, but he was never saved. Judas' service was so sincere that the other disciples never suspected he was not a true believer.

Matthew 10:1-7

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

⁵ *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:*

⁶ *But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

⁷ *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

From these verses we see two points about Judas.

- **He performed miracles.**
- **He preached the message of the Kingdom.**

We can be sure this is true because the other Apostles never reported anything contrary.

Matthew 26:21-22

²¹ *And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.*

²² *And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?*

2. **It is possible for people to get very close to the Lord and never be saved.**

Possibly the words of Judas will sound like Matthew 7:22

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Conclusion:

Be sure you are saved!!!