

"Judas' Replacement"

Part 3

Introduction: It has been three weeks since we were in our study of Acts. We are currently looking at Peter's words concerning the replacement of Judas. We have also looked at Judas to see just how close he was to the Lord, but he never was saved. In Matthew we get a clear view of Judas and how he deceived the other disciples.

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.*

Judas was empowered by the Lord to do miracles and he preached of the coming Kingdom. He wore the mask so well that even the disciples never suspected that he would betray the Lord.

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?***

Judas was a master at deception, but he did not deceive the Lord. Jesus knew exactly what he was like. We also looked at some of the titles given to Judas in the Bible.

Tonight we are going to continue to move forward and see the replacement of Judas, but first there is yet one more point concerning Judas that we need to see.

The Field of Blood

Notice Acts 1:18-19

These verses seem to be parenthetical and are most likely added by Luke. Luke gives us details here that we do not find elsewhere in the Scriptures. Luke tells us that Judas purchased a field with the blood money. Now at first the verses here seem to contradict what Matthew records but that is not the case.

Matthew 26:14-15

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

¹⁵ And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 27:3-10

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

⁶ And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

⁷ And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

⁸ Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

⁹ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

¹⁰ And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

We see from these verses that it was the religious leaders who took the money which Judas had thrown in the Temple, and they purchased the field.

Notice Acts 1:18-19 again.

We notice that Luke gives us details that Judas fell and suffered a major injury and then when we take the words of Matthew, we can see how it all happened.

Matthew 27:5

⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Apparently, the limb or the rope broke when Judas hanged himself and he fell a long distance to the ground causing the injury. Possibly he hung himself over a cliff and he fell into the rocks. There is something in all of this that we need to see.

Matthew 27:8

⁸ Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Matthew wrote this Gospel approximately some 50 or 60 years after these events happened and he tells us that in the day when he wrote this Gospel the field was still known as the field of blood.

Application:

You and I have two options in life, we can leave a positive testimony, or we can leave a negative testimony. Those who are saved have the opportunity to leave a positive testimony that can impact many others long after we are gone. But those who never get saved can be used by God, as Judas was, to leave behind a negative testimony. In other words can use the unsaved as a memorial to others to testify how tragic a life can be if a person "plays" with Christianity and never gets saved. Let me show you another example.

Genesis 4:3-7, 11-15

³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

⁶ *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*

⁷ *If thou doest well, shalt thou are not accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

¹¹ *And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;*

¹² *When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.*

¹³ *And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.*

¹⁴ *Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*

¹⁵ *And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.*

Cain received a mark that all could see as a reminder to what happens to those who waste away their chances of salvation.

God's Choice of a Replacement

Notice Acts 1:20-22

There was a qualification for the Apostle that would replace Judas and for all Apostles. They had to be an eyewitness of Jesus after the resurrection. This harmonizes with what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 9:1

Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Now, while it was a requirement for all Apostles to have seen the Lord after His resurrection not everyone who witnessed Jesus after His resurrection was an Apostle.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

⁵ *And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

⁶ *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

⁷ *After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

⁸ *And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

Jesus was seen by more than five hundred witnesses, but they were not all Apostles. This requirement of being a witness of Jesus after His resurrection tells us that there are no Apostles today. There are no eyewitnesses of His resurrection today, so we have no Apostles.

Getting back to Acts there were two men who met the requirements.

Notice Acts 1:23-25

It was so important that they sought the Lord's will concerning Judas' replacement. The office of Apostle was of highest importance. These men would be the pillars of the church.

Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

²⁰ *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

The church will begin in Acts two and the New Testament church would not have a New Testament Bible. The church would be taught the doctrine of the Apostles.

Acts 2:41-44

⁴¹ *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

⁴² *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

⁴³ *And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

The Apostles were given spiritual gifts that separated them from all others.

2 Corinthians 12:12

¹² Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Application:

Notice Acts 1:24 again.

Here we see the importance of prayer when choosing people for positions of leadership. God knows the hearts of men and He has certain people whom He has chosen for certain positions. We must understand that God has made each of us and we all have certain characteristics. God is able to use us with our characteristics in the setting where He places us. Certain people with certain characteristics may fit well in one place but not in another. God knows all of this and so we must be sure to seek His will when it comes to not only leadership but all decisions of life.

Notice Acts 1:25 again.

We are told here that Judas went to his "own place". This was his "own place" of choosing. Judas ended up in hell and that is where he belonged because that was his choice. He had so many chances, but he wasted every one of them away. He made the choice to turn away from Jesus and therefore he went to the place where he belonged, his "own place", to hell.

Notice Acts 1:26

Matthais was chosen to be the replacement for Judas. It is interesting that Matthais is never mentioned again but that does not mean he was a second class Apostle. Many of the others are not mentioned either.

Conclusion:

This is the last time the Lord's will will be determined by casting of lots.

Proverbs 16:33

³³ The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

From this day forward God would make His will known by the Holy Spirit and by the Word as it was written for the church.