

THE CHURCH BEFORE PENTECOST

Ready for Pentecost #5, Acts 1:15-26

May 22, 2022

*Then they returned to Jerusalem
They all joined together constantly in prayer,
along the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
In those days Peter stood up among the believers . . .
and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled
which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago
through the mouth of David
concerning Judas"
Acts 1:12-17*

A lot happens in that room!

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 1 (see "the house" in John 20:26, and Luke's account in Luke 24:33)

1. Remember: When in doubt, pray together!
2. Jesus' family is now included in the band of disciples
3. The "joined together constantly" theme describes the heart of the Jerusalem church

Acts 2:42

Acts 2:46

Acts 4:24

Acts 5:12

Acts 15:24

What the Holy Spirit said through David (to the church!)

¹⁵ *In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”*

¹⁸ *(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)*

²⁰ *“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the book of Psalms,*

“ ‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’
and,

“ ‘May another take his place of leadership.’

²¹ *Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”*

Acts 1 (Peter quotes from Psalm 69 and 109)

1. God was not surprised by Judas’ wickedness (neither was Jesus!)
2. Having a testimony matters
3. Like much in Acts, this process is descriptive not prescriptive (see the James story in Acts 12:1-4)

The Office chooses the Person

²³ *So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.*

Acts 1

1. Propose and Pray (Acts 6:1-7; Acts 14:21-23)
2. God chooses (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:14; Titus 1:5)
3. Elders and Deacons are necessary to a healthy church (1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1; Romans 16:1)
4. Selecting leaders got everyone involved

Resources for studying Luke's two part story of Jesus

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

Spurgeon has a sermon that connects the ascension and Second Coming at <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/1817.htm>

J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary at <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/124.htm> I have also included his classic article, "Repentance", at <https://www.monergism.com/repentance>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a very interesting sermon series on Luke at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>. His message on the end of Luke is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/invisibility-invincibility-luke-2436-53> Deffinbaugh has an good summary of the book of Acts at <https://bible.org/seriespage/unique-contribution-book-acts> and on the preparation for Pentecost in Acts at <https://bible.org/seriespage/2-preparation-pentecost-acts-11-26>

Kevin DeYoung has a good Ascension summary at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/theological-primer-the-ascension/>

F. F. Bruce's helpful study of the Jerusalem church at http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/cbrfj/church-jerusalem_bruce.pdf

John Calvin's summary of the benefits of Jesus' ascension at <https://www.monergism.com/3-benefits-imparted-our-faith-christs-ascension>

John Murray, Rev. Muir's favorite professor, has a wonderful but hard to read lecture on Jesus' intercessory work at https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_christ_murray.html

Tim Keller has some very interesting comments on the mission of the church at <https://redeemercitycity.com/articles-stories/the-missional-church> and a contemporary look at repentance at http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/All_of_Life_Is_Repentance-Keller.pdf

If you want to equip yourself to explain why we believe in resurrection, Michael Horton has a wonderful, if a bit heavy, article at <https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/articles/risen-indeed-2/>

