



In case of crisis... Acts 1:12-26

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The Crisis

- Jesus is gone
- One of Jesus' chosen apostles betrayed Jesus & them
- All of Jesus' chosen apostles abandoned Him
 Seemingly... both Jesus and chosen apostles failed
- They didn't know what was going to happen
- They didn't know who could lead, or who would lead
- Maybe that's why they kept staring into the sky...
 - Trouble or danger
 - Difficult decision
- Critical turning point
- What did they do?

<i>Acts 1:12-26</i> 12-14: Praying: in unity and devotion 15-17: • Following Jesus' example	Spanish: Brown:	page 1763 page 1384 page 1090 page 743
 18-19: "Jesus was baptized too. And he was pra "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places a "Jesus went out to a mountainside to pr the night praying to God." "Once when Jesus was praying in privat "As Jesus was praying, the appearance of changed" "One day Jesus was praying in a certain "I have prayed for you, Simon" "Jesus knelt down and prayed more of 	nd pray ay, and te" of his fac	red." spent ce

Acts 1:12-26

- 12-14: Praying: in **unity** and **devotion**
- 15-17: Following Scripture: replace Judas
- 18-19: Peter takes leadership, even though He was the worst
- 20-22: offender among them (denied even knowing Jesus)
- 23-26: "But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." *Luke 22:32 (Jesus' promised grace)*
 - Judas's failure and Judas's replacement were predicted *Acts 1:20*
 - Scripture helped them understand past, present, and future

Acts 1:12-26

- 12-14: Praying: in **unity** and **devotion**
- 15-17: Following Scripture: replace Judas
- 18-19: Judas's horrible outcome
- 20-22: Leading people to kill the Son of God is horrible!
- 23-26: Matthew: suicide was sufficiently shameful for Jews
 - Luke: perhaps he included graphic details to express the extent of shame for Gentiles
 - Judas's betrayal could not derail God's plan
 - Opposing God's plan can be deadly (repeats in Acts)

Acts 1:12-26

- 12-14: Praying: in **unity** and **devotion**
- 15-17: Following Scripture: replace Judas
- 18-19: Judas's horrible outcome
- 20-22: Gospel focus: witness of Jesus' whole ministry
- 23-26: Historical reliability of these events is central to Gospel witness
 - Christianity is not merely a <u>philosophy</u> or a <u>way</u> of life or a <u>source of hope</u>
 - Christianity is an **action of God** to save people
 - Bible clearly claims historical accuracy of these events, and our hope depends on it

Acts 1:12-26

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- 15-17: Following Scripture: replace Judas
- 18-19: Judas's horrible outcome
- 20-22: Gospel focus: witness of Jesus' whole ministry
- 23-26: By wisdom and Jesus' direction: Mathias chosen
 - They narrowed the list carefully
 - They prayed for God's direction
 - They <u>discerned</u> the choice Jesus had already made
 - Description of them using lots isn't prescribing us to
 - Rest of Acts: prayer and dialogue together

Discerned = Recognized, perceived prescribing = dictating, commanding Big Idea

In crisis or confusion... run to Jesus!



