

Acts – 5/31/26

Read

Read Acts 1:12-2:13 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- In 1:1-11, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. What does this passage teach us about how the disciples waited?
- Luke makes sure to tell us that Jesus' mother, Mary, and "the women" were among the 120 disciples in the upper room (v.13-15). What does this reveal about Christianity's concern for women?
- Why does it matter that the Old Testament foretold Judas' betrayal of Jesus (v.16-20, cf. Psalm 69:25; 109:8)? What does this reveal about the nature of Scripture, and about how Christians should approach the Old Testament?
- Peter denied Jesus three times before his death, and Judas betrayed him; both were among Jesus 12 disciples. What makes their stories different? Why did Peter end up being restored as a disciple and church leader, while Judas remained in his rebellion and died?
- There needed to be 12 apostles in order to be the "new Israel," which had 12 tribes. The disciples cast lots to determine who would fill the spot, but noticeably this is *before* the coming of the Holy Spirit, and is the last time lots were cast to make decisions in Scripture. What does this reveal about how God intends Christians to make decisions?
- Considering the Old Testament background and evidence within the passage, explain how Pentecost is a fulfillment of God's promises.
- How might Pentecost compare and contrast with the Tower of Babel narrative in Genesis 11? Why might Luke be drawing comparisons between these two stories?

Apply

- V.14 says that the disciples "with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer." How would you characterize your prayer life right now? What are some steps you could take to mature in this area?
- Not only were the disciples together praying, but they were unified (v.14— "with one accord). What does this reveal about the need for unity within the church? How can we pursue unity as a community without sacrificing theological rigor? How should we navigate dysfunction and disunity within the church?
- How does the life and fate of Judas serve as a warning to Christians today? How should Christians think about Judas now?
- The disciples knew they needed to fill Judas' spot among the 12, but didn't know who would fill it. Often, we know the big picture of what God wants from us, but we don't know the specifics. How does this passage help us live in these situations? What is the role of Scripture in decision making? What is the role of community in decision making?
- Pentecost is one of the most significant events of the New Testament. How would you explain its importance clearly to a non-Christian?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.