

Acts 1:15–26 (NIV)

- 1) There are a couple of key thoughts here – *first*, this is a God ordained situation.
 - a) The fact that they cast lots does NOT make it arbitrary.
 - b) Some think it is but drawing lots in this manner is well known and combined with the hearts and prayers of these men and women regarding the situation there is no doubt this was the correct way to go about it.
 - c) And, the correct time.
 - i) Some have speculated that had they waited for the Holy Spirit to arrive, things may have turned out differently.
 - ii) Considering all that is given us here I personally do not think so.
 - iii) Also, it was probably wise to have that person present and in place when the Holy Spirit did arrive.
- 2) **Second** key thought is – the apostles see the need for continuity – for a continuous presence of the 12 from the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry.
 - a) Jesus had chosen the original 12.
 - i) In fact at one point, he tells them plainly that they did not choose him – he chose them.
 - b) There is also an elevated situation of importance associated which must be considered.
 - i) The disciples (the 12) were not just 12 guys out of the number of disciples who were involved here.
 - ii) Being chosen by Jesus truly brought an elevated status (if that is the correct idea) to these men.

Matthew 19:28–30 (NIV)

- 3) This is obviously an elevation of the twelve to a special place.
 - a) Setting on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel is a God ordained situation.
- 4) Everyone who follows Jesus will be rewarded as this passage clearly indicates.
- 5) However, it is obvious that everyone will not be setting on thrones judging the 12 tribes.
- 6) So, we can see from this that making this choice is truly an important task these men are undertaking.
 - a) Again, it is not their choice it is God’s choice and they know that.
 - b) It is their responsibility to place before God those who were with Jesus the whole time he was with them as is stated here...

“beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us— one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.” (NIV)

- 7) This set of criteria probably did not produce a large field to choose from.
- 8) In fact, these two men may have been the only ones who met them.
- 9) I would be remiss if I did not at least bring up the fact that some scholars believe that this entire situation was a mistake.
 - a) Matthias should not have been chosen at all.
 - b) Paul should have been the 12th apostle added.
- 10) Many others disagree.
 - i) First, Paul did not meet the any of the criterion set forth here (though he did see Jesus face-to-face)
 - ii) As far as we know, he did not witness the resurrection.
 - iii) He was not with them throughout the entire time from John’s baptism onward.
 - b) Most importantly, God would have intervened at this point had this not been the proper way to proceed.
- 11) I am in this camp. I cannot accept by any stretch that God would have allowed such an error to have taken place.
- 12) To me, Paul’s place is special. Special in a way that we do not know since we are not privy to God’s intention.
- 13) There is also the fact that the paths of the original 12 and Paul are really quite different, as we will see in our study of Acts.
 - a) Both necessary but both different and truly complementary in their results.
- 14) So, back to the process and the outcome.
- 15) The process began or continued with prayer and then, at the appropriate point, the final process of casting lots was performed.
- 16) According to the LABC, the final process of casting the lots was likely done by writing the two names on two stones and then placing them into a container.
 - a) Sort of like drawing names out of a hat.
- 17) The first stone to fall out or be picked from the container would be considered God’s choice.
- 18) From what we know, this practice did not continue after Pentecost.
- 19) There would be no need because the Holy Spirit, will indwell the hearts and minds of God’s people and he would be the guide in all matters like these.
- 20) For example, later the elders would select the leaders at the various churches, but not with lots.