

# Acts 1:12-26 - - Between The End And The Beginning

## Sunday AM 08/23/20

### Prelude to the lesson:

#### A) Have you ever been lost?

1. Not physically or geographically, I don't even mean spiritually, but lost in the sense of one thing ending and not knowing where to go from there?
2. Often people have periods of being unsure of what to do next. (Graduation, separation/divorce, empty nest syndrome, loss of job, retirement, death of a love one, etc)
3. The overarching question is "what's next?"

#### B) I can imagine the disciples asking that question.

1. Followed Jesus for three years.
2. Saw His death on the cross
3. Saw His resurrected body and spoke with Him on numerous occasions.

#### C) Introduction to **Acts 1.12-26**

1. **Acts 1** verses **1-11** deals with Luke introducing himself and his credentials.
2. an outline of the Book of Acts as they were told they would preach starting at Jerusalem then Judea then Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
3. Questions about the kingdom and when it will be "**restored to Israel**"

4. Then Jesus' ascension and the angel's questioning why they stood there looking into the clouds.
5. Next we have the time between Jesus' ascension and the Day of Pentecost. What did they do?

I) **They went to the right place**

A) **Physically they had to go to Jerusalem.**

***Acts 1:12*** ***Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.***

1. This was in obedience to Christ, **verse 4** "He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem".
2. Fulfillment of prophecy.

***Isaiah 2:2*** ***Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***

***Luke 24:47*** ***"and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.***

3. The church in prophecy had to have its beginning at Jerusalem. Any place else is not the church Jesus promised to build. He did not promise to build His church beginning in

Germany, of Holland, or Switzerland, or Rome, etc.

**B) We have to be in the right place.**

1. The right place is in the body of Christ.

***Ephesians 5:23*** *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

2. One cannot be saved outside the body of Christ, it is in His body we have salvation.
3. Therefore being in the right place means being in the church/body of Christ.
4. Just as the disciples had to go to Jerusalem to be in Jerusalem, one has to enter the body of Christ to be in Christ. How?

***Galatians 3:26*** *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

5. Being in the right place is very important.

**II) They Were Together With the Other Disciples**

***Acts 1:13*** *And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. 15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,*

**A) They were joined together with the right people**

1. They were not with those who had killed Jesus. No encouragement there.
2. They did not just go back home.
3. They were not alone in Jerusalem.

**B) What were they doing together?**

1. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication"
2. Have you ever noticed the number of times in Acts people were praying and praying together.
  - a. Saul (Paul) was praying when Ananias came to him, **Acts 9.11**
  - b. When Peter was in prison the disciples were together praying, **Acts 12.12**
  - c. Paul and Silas were in prison praying when the earth shook and the doors were open, **Acts 16.25**
3. Prayer of faith is a powerful tool.

**C) We need to be with the right people.**

1. Fellowship – joint participation, working together, encouraging one another. Recently were tore down a shed and had a big fire. The pieces separated from the pile did not burn, they did not receive any warmth or fire.
2. We do not receive zeal and enthusiasm when you are not here with us.

**D) We need to be a praying people.**

1. Time to praise God, ask on behalf of others, ask for our needs, to be thankful.
2. It is always encouraging when going through trials to hear someone say "I am praying for you."

### III) They Looked to the Scriptures

**Acts 1:16** *"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 "for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." 18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. 19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'*

#### A) The Scriptures spoke of...

1. Judas' betrayal of Jesus

**Zechariah 11:11** *So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD. 12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.*

**Psalms 41:9** *Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.*

**Psalms 109:8** *Let his days be few, And let another take his office.*

2. It had to be hard to see Jesus die and to know it was due to one of their own betraying Him.
3. Understanding this all foretold had to of been reassuring to them.

**B) We need to look to the Scriptures**

1. To be willing to examine the Scriptures daily, **Acts 17.11**
2. To know how to be saved.
3. To understand God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
4. To make good decisions.
5. Do you believe you will make it to heaven without the word of God?

**IV) They Took Care of the Business At Hand.**

**Acts 1:21** *"Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." 23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 "to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

**A) Somebody had to take Judas' place, but who?**

1. Not left up to individual choice- most popular, most eloquent, etc.

2. Two qualifications.
  - a. Been with them at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.
  - b. Seen Jesus after His resurrection.
3. Notice only two men qualified- Justice and Matthias.
4. Casting of lots was more than pure luck, but letting God determine which man would serve.

**B) This tells us**

1. There are no apostles alive today. Nobody alive today was with Jesus in the beginning of His ministry, or saw Jesus after His resurrection.
2. Any religion that claims to have "apostles" are not going by the scriptures.

**Conclusion:**

At this point the beginning was about to begin and nothing would be the same. It was going to be better! In our lives new beginnings especially to become a Christian is better.