

Wait! Let's All Walk in the Same Direction!

Acts 1.12-26

Invest Starting Window Cleaning service in Lahaina?

Wonder if I Heard > Not many WINDOWS Left in L?

Visionary Investment > Start Hanging Windows we'll be Ready!

Last Command of Jesus on Earth: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1.8

What kind of mission would this be??

Jerusalem – Jesus was crucified there less than 2 Months Ago!!

Judea – Jesus was rejected there

Samaria – They were half-breeds – Mutual Hatred for Centuries

Ends of the Earth = Gentiles --- You must be JOKING!

So far in Acts chap 1 seen 3 Certainties

**Jesus is ALIVE – Jesus has ASCENDED – They'll be ATTACKED!**

### 1. Gathered for Worship

He gave them this command: "he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" Acts 1.4,5

HOW DID THEY WAIT?? They worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed *continually at the temple, praising God.* Luke 24.52,53

v. 14 They all joined *together constantly in prayer*

**Continuous PRAISE in the TEMPLE /**

**Constant PRAYER in their HOMES**

The situations in which we learn most about obedience are those in which we cannot see why we are called to do what we are doing. If we can give a reason for what we are doing, then we are not necessarily learning obedience, at least not simple obedience. What we are really doing is trusting our ability to reason things out...But it is quite another thing to learn obedience when the proscribed course does not seem the best option. James Boice

Elite Force ARMY of GOD to CONQUER World > In ONE ROOM

Surprising? God ENTRUSTED Purpose & Reputation to PEOPLE

Angels More Efficient – God uses Sinners saved by GRACE

NOT Total of All Believers > Some in Galilee, Samaria, Judea

...he appeared to *more than five hundred* of the brothers at the same time 1 Corinthians 15.4,6

vs. 13,14 “Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers”

Same 11 Apostles listed in Luke 6 – Different Arrangement

1<sup>st</sup> ones... Peter, James, John > NO Hint Peter was POPE

INTERESTING GROUP – Apostles, Mother Mary, Brothers of Jesus

Where Nicodemus? Joseph of Arimethea? Cleopas? Lazarus? J’s Sisters?

v. 15 a group numbering about a hundred and twenty

120 People / 1 Place for 10 Days > Vacation from Hell?

All of them Survived! Stronger! Ready for Mission

// btwn Acts & Bk JOSHUA > Both BRIDGES

Joshua – People of God ENTER Promised Land > rest OT Remain in LAND

Acts – People of God become Church > Rest of NT Letters to Churches

Joshua – 10 Days Waiting before 1<sup>st</sup> BATTLE – Jericho

Acts – 10 Days Waiting before – 1<sup>st</sup> Soul HARVEST

vs. 12,13 “they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away...to the upper room, where they were staying”

Sabbath Day’s Walk = About 1 km / SCRIBES > UNLAWFUL Further

Very Room of LAST SUPPER?? > Possibly Home of Mark’s Family??

v. 15 Peter stood up among the believers...and said, “*Brothers...*

1<sup>st</sup> Time CHRISTIANS are CALLED ‘BROTHERS’

Peter who DENIED Dying Jesus / Now DECLARES Risen Jesus

NORMAL, HEALTHY Mix of Men and WOMEN

v. 14 ...*together with the women* and Mary the mother of Jesus

LAST Time Mary – Mother of Jesus – Mentioned in BIBLE

Mary NOT an OBJECT of WORSHIP but PARTICIPANT in Worship

Because of Mary, Jesus was born; because of Jesus, Mary was born again.

- Not Separated in Different Rooms, BEHIND Walls, Curtains, Burkhas

Co-Equal Before GOD – Not SLAVES or SEX-SYMBOLS >> Sisters

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all *one in Christ Jesus*.  
Galatians 3.28

v. 14 ...and with his brothers / Bros / Sons Mary & Joseph / NOT Believe

For not even his brothers believed in him. John 7.5

Then he appeared to James 1 Corinthians 15.6,7

Like SONS of Jacob > Brother they Rejected & Thought DEAD >

Now on Throne! // Brothers of Joseph in Egypt – Bowed to Risen Brother

v. 14 They all joined *together* > Favorite word of LUKE – uses 10 X's

...they raised their voices *together in prayer* to God... Acts 4.24

## 2. Getting Ready for Work

Out of His Many DISCIPLES > 12 Chosen as APOSTLES

word 'Apostle' = SENT ONE, i.e. Sent with AUTHORITY

Right Away Scandal > BETRAYAL and SUICIDE of Apostle

vs. 16-19 ...Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus - he was *one of our number and shared in this ministry.*" (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field...Akeldama/ Field of Blood.)

( ) – LUKE'S Addition of BACKGROUND INFO for GENTILE Readers

JUDAS Pastoral Question – More I could do? How about me, fall away?

Theological Question – Only 12 Apostles, can't GOD keep them ALL?

DEAL Quickly, Openly, Honestly with Problem that Destroys Fellowship

We have ONLY KNOWN Judas as BAD GUY > They FELT Deep PAIN

Judas Trusted Friend > NO IDEA he would Betray Jesus & Them!

# 12 Apostles > Jesus leading New Israel into True Promised Land

#12 Complete Leadership Team / 12 Sons of Israel – 12 Apostles of Jesus

Jesus: "I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Luke 22.29-30

Jesus takes Throne in Heaven > Symbolic Thrones of CHURCH Filled

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Revelation 21.14

As WAIT on Lord before Final Act of Salvation History > Need 12<sup>th</sup> Man

vs. 20,21 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate..." "Let another take his office' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us ...

v. 22 one of these men must become with us a *witness to his resurrection*

Apostle needed to be EYE-witness of Jesus ministry on Earth

An objective experience of the risen Lord was an indispensable qualification of an apostle...and why there have been no comparable apostles since and can be none today. John Stott

Paul did NOT Include Himself as one of Original 12

he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve...then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also  
1 Corinthians 15.5,7,8

Last Replacement Made > These 12 Apostles FAITHFUL unto DEATH

Office of Apostle CLOSED with Death of Apostle John on Patmos

You are...God's people and members of God's household, built on the *foundation of the apostles and prophets*, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2.19-20

### 3. Guided by the Word

1.1 "all that Jesus BEGAN to do and teach" > written in GOSPEL of L

Now > All J. CONTINUES Do & Teach > thru Church led by Apostles

Luke: Jesus' *Earthly Humiliation* // Acts: Jesus' *Heavenly Exaltation*

J Ministry Continues on Earth – thru 1, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church

Jesus 40 DAYS on EARTH before ASCENSION > Focus on APOSTLES

v. 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen

During 10 Days of WAITING > Peter STUDIED SCRIPTURE

Risen Jesus > Easter Afternoon > Bible Seminar on Emmaus Road

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in *all the Scriptures concerning himself*. Luke 24.27

v. 2 given commands thru Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen

Maui TODAY much Confusion > Little Clear Direction > Accusations

Acts 1 – Imptc of Leadership, Humility, Waiting on God, Believing Word

Church of Jesus Needs to Stand Together > Same Page on Impt ISSUES

Who is God? Dead and Disappointing OR Alive and Adore? /Hare Kr?

Who is Jesus? Dead Criminal or Divine Christ?

How to Meet God? HK=Surrender > Dead in Sin...cannot Repent!

What is the Church? Cruise Ship or Battle Ship?

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119.105

120: Living & Speaking as if JESUS Himself was THERE with Them

Jesus had Rightful Place as Lord > Church Right Position at His Feet

vs. 16,20 Peter... said, " "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas... "For it is written in the book of Psalms....

DAVID lived 1000 years BEFORE Jesus & Judas > SPOKE of MESSIAH

JESUS – SON of David and David’s LORD – KEY to the OT

Whole CHURCH taking Whole GOSPEL to Whole WORLD >

Every Believer must be Concerned for Every PERSON on PLANET

v. 23 Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias

1<sup>st</sup> man Several Names > Sign of Dignity, Importance

Barsabbas = Son of SABBATH! // Justus = Man of JUSTICE!

If Choice Made by Man, Maybe Chose more DIGNIFIED Candidate

vs. 23-26 So they *proposed* two men... Then they *prayed* ... Then they *cast lots*, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

PROCESS > Guided by Scripture – Reason – Consensus – Prayer – Lots

LOTS!?! – PAGAN!?! > Only OTHER Time in NT > Soldiers at CROSS

LOTS > Discern God’s Will w/out Human Interference / Prejudices

**CHURCH was ASKING Her Lord to MAKE HIS CHOICE**

v. 24 Then they prayed "*Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us* which of these two you have chosen...

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. Proverbs 16.33

Gathered for Worship / Guided by the Word / Getting Ready for Work

Scripture, common sense, and prayer constitute a wholesome combination through which God may be trusted to guide us today. John Stott

With great power the *apostles continued to testify to the resurrection* of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4.33

v. 14 They all joined together *constantly in prayer*

Keep PRAYING until GOD ANSWERS! / Pray Until Something Happens

People can ONLY DO HUMAN Achievements in THEIR POWER

Prayer taps God's POWER and invites PRESENCE of GOD'S SPIRIT

No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer – Christians persistently praying for revival. J. Edwin Orr

1850's – USA in WEAK, SPIRITUAL CONDITION

1857 46 yr old Business/Joseph Lanphier 1 hr. Noon Weekly Prayer NYC

1<sup>st</sup> Day Lanphier Alone 30 Minutes > by End, 6 Men from 4 Denominat

Next Week – 20 // Week Later – 40 // SOON – OVER 100 DAILY!!

Businessmen >> Money NOT SAVE Them > Gospel FILL their HEARTS

MANY Prayer Mtgs OPENED– OTHER Churches > ALL ACROSS USA

Within 6 months 10,000 Daily Prayer Mtgs JUST in NEW YORK CITY

Within 2 YEARS > 2 Million American led to FAITH in JESUS

USA population = 30 Million / 13 % of Nation Saved > Believers Prayed

Church in Acts > Out into World in Mission > Back to God in Prayer

DIALOGUE > PRAYER and WORD > We Talk to God, God to Us!

Acts shows us what prayer is like when praying people recognize the presence of Jesus the Lord. It is joyful and confident, for the one who is Lord and Christ among us hears our needs. There is awe-filled fear when we recognize his terrifying holiness. There is preoccupation not with ourselves – our ailments, comforts, conveniences, hurt feelings – but with the great cause of the King who walks in our midst. We ask to receive from his hand whatever will make us serviceable to him, useful for his saving purposes. We pray not because we must, but because we may; not out of lust for his gifts, but out of love for the Giver; not to bend his will to ours, but to bend our will to him.

Dennis Johnson

Right Here & Now – thru Prayer & Worship we TASTE HEAVEN

Glimpse of Presence of JESUS – LORD Now and FOREVER

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Acts 1:12-26 <sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. <sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>18</sup>(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>“For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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