

THE BOOK OF
ACTS

Rev. Forde's Bible Study FTCC Thursday, October 16, 2025

Acts 1:18-20

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, “‘May another take his place of leadership.’”

Matthew 27:3-10

³ When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” ⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸ That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰ and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.

➤ Review 1:18-20. Read Matthew's account of Judas's death (Matthew 27:3-10). Are the two passages contradictory or different pieces of the same puzzle?

1. Use a Bible dictionary to look up *disciple* and *apostle*. What is the difference? What does this mean for believers today?

https://biblehub.com/q/how_is_a_disciple_different_from_an_apostle.htm

➤ Review 1:21-22.

2. What two requirements were listed for Judas's replacement?

3. Summarize their prayer from 1:24-25 using the questions below.

- What does God know?
- Who chose Judas's replacement?

Acts 1:21-26 (NIV)

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." ²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so, he was added to the eleven apostles.

- The apostles' casting lots might seem shocking. This was a common practice at that time. God had revealed His will to His people in this way before when they divided the promised land (**Joshua 18:6-10**) and when they determined the division of priests (**1 Chronicles 24:1-5**).
- Much of what we see in Acts is descriptive, that is, it offers information about how God worked at that particular time, in that particular situation. This is one of those situations. This practice is not a prescriptive instruction about how to discern God's will. After all, we believers today have two things the apostles on that day didn't: the complete Word of God and the Holy Spirit.
- The New Testament nowhere instructs Christians to use a method like casting lots. The Word, the Spirit, and prayer should be sufficient for discerning God's will today—not casting lots, rolling dice, or flipping a coin.
- God, who knows the hearts of all, had chosen His twelfth apostle: Matthias.

- When the 120 gathered (1:15), Luke wrote that they “with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer” (1:14). The believers were described by their unity.
- Fifty days after the Passover each year, Jews celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks that celebrates the harvest and the receiving of the *Torah* to Moses at Mount Sinai.
- During this annual celebration, Jews from all across the region journeyed to Jerusalem, bringing with them their various cultures and languages.
- Christians will be more familiar with the Greek name for Shavuot, Pentecost. Since Pentecost is the Greek word for 50, and as Shavuot occurs 50 days after the first day of Passover, it was referred to as Pentecost in the Christian Bible.
- That particular Pentecost would indeed be a celebration, just not the kind they were expecting.

- In Genesis, God gave the command to fill the earth (1:28).
 - But some people had other ideas. They built a tower to honor themselves in the middle of a city where they thought they would all live together.
1. Read Genesis 11:6-9. What happened as a result of their disobedience?
 2. Review Acts 2:2-4. How did Luke describe the series of supernatural events that happened next?
 3. What happened when the Holy Spirit filled the believers?
 4. Use a Bible to look up *tongues* (2:4). <https://biblehub.com/greek/1100.htm>
 5. Review 2:5-11. What's true about the tongues spoken at Pentecost? Which 3 verses support your answer?
 - A. They were secret prayer languages given to each speaker.
 - B. They were understood only by the angels and the speakers.
 - C. They were the native languages of God's dispersed people, each understood individually by the visitors to Jerusalem in their own languages.

Read the following passages. How does the Holy Spirit work in each of them?

1. 1 John 4:4 – The Spirit...
2. John 16:8-9- The Spirit...
3. John 16:13- The Spirit...
4. Titus 3:5- The Spirit...
5. Romans 5:5- The Spirit...

How have you seen the Holy Spirit work in your life?

Acts 2:14-41-Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him: “‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’ ²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “‘The Lord said to my Lord: “‘Sit at my right hand ³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’ ³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.