

ACTS 1:24-25 – MATTHIAS CHOSEN!

11/19/16 Sat Morn Prayer

Act 1:23-26 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.

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD – Edward Hatch -Festival Choir

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.
of Thine eternity.*

AND THEY PRAYED FOR A SUCCESSOR FOR JUDAS:

[24] And they prayed and said,

- They prayed first, and it was easy to pray because they had already been praying (*Acts 1:14*).
- Their *doing what Jesus would do* was notable. How did Jesus choose the disciples? He prayed (*Luke 6:12-13*), even as these disciples did, to see who the Lord would add to their number.

"You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all,

- A character peculiar to the one only living, and true God; for none knows the hearts of men, but God, who is the Maker of them; and he knows all the thoughts, counsels, and purposes of them, and the good or bad that is in them.

show which of these two You have chosen

- They were desirous of having their choice directed by the choice God had made, in his eternal mind; and which they desired might be signified and pointed out to them, in some way or another, that they might be certain of the mind and will of God, and act according to it.

[25] to take part in this ministry and apostleship

- Of the ministry of the apostles, which lay in preaching the Gospel, administering ordinances, planting churches, and working miracles; and which part, lot, or inheritance, Judas had; see [Act_1:17](#).

from which Judas by transgression fell,

- By betraying his Lord, whose apostle he was, he was turned out of his office, and had no longer part in the apostolic ministry:

that he might go to his own place."

- This may be understood of Judas, and of his going to hell, as the just punishment of his sin; which is commonly so called by the Jews.

[26] And they cast their lots,

- Many people have questioned the method for choosing one of the two men - after all these great spiritual steps, they end up rolling dice to pick the winner. Is this any way to choose an apostle?
- Their *reliance on God is notable*. Though they were not yet filled with the Holy Spirit, as they would be, they still wanted to choose a method that would make them rely on God. *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.* ([Proverbs 16:33](#))
- The casting of lots may be an imperfect way to discern God's will, but it is much better than the methods many Christians use today, relying on emotions, circumstances, feelings, carnal desires and so forth.
- Some have questioned is the casting of lots really an excellent way of determining the will of the Lord. It is sort of drawing straws.
- Was it a mistake in limiting God, in only giving Him two choices? Lord, you want me to do this or that? Well maybe He had something entirely different that you haven't even thought of. But we limit God by the options that we offer Him.

And the lot fell on Matthias.

- Was Matthias the right man for the job of the twelfth apostle?
- Some insist that Matthias was the wrong choice and the use of lots was not right. The idea is that God would have chosen Paul if the office had been left vacant. But should we not respect the testimony of the Scriptures; God did not want to leave the office vacant. If He did, it might be seen as a victory for Satan - Jesus picked 12, but one came up short and defeated Jesus' desire to have 12 apostles.
- Even though we read nothing more of Matthias, we should not assume he was a "poor choice" as an apostle. Except for Peter and John, none of the original twelve are mentioned again after [Acts 1:1-26](#). Matthias was no more of a "poor choice" than Matthew or Andrew or Thomas or any of the others.
- Paul considered himself an apostle, but *one born out of due time* ([1 Corinthians 15:8](#)). It doesn't seem that he objected to the selection of Matthias.

And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- He took his place among the apostles. He was registered among them, and ever after was said to be one of them. Their number being now complete. ([Acts 2:14](#)) *But Peter, standing up with the eleven,*

SUMMARY:

- **How we need prayer; the Word and the Holy Spirit to make decisions**
- **At the time of this prayer, the Holy Spirit had not yet been fully poured out as it just preceded Pentecost.**
- **They did consider the Word of God in following a procedure mentioned of casting lots.**
- **We should never limit God is asking for specific limits on our prayers – "which of the two"?**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- **Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority**
- **Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and the one VACANCY**
- **When in small groups - Personal Prayers:**
- **Our President and Vice President: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence.**
- **The new administration being formed! Positions filled so far: Reince Priebus, chief of staff; Stephen Bannon, chief strategist and senior counselor; Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, attorney general; Gen. Mike Flynn, national security adviser; Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo, CIA director**
- **Chairman - Vice President-elect and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence**
- **Others in the news: Rudy Giuliani; Members of Presidential Transition Team Executive Committee; Pennsylvania Rep. Lou Barletta; Tennessee Rep. Marsha Blackburn; Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi; New York Rep. Chris Collins; Jared Kushner, Trump son-in-law and publisher of New York Observer; Pennsylvania Rep. Tom Marino; Rebekah Mercer, hedge fund heiress; Steven Mnuchin, Trump campaign finance chairman and former Goldman Sachs partner; California Rep. Devin Nunes, chairman of the House intelligence committee; Anthony Scaramucci, founder of Sky Bridge Capital; Peter Thiel, venture capitalist and co-founder of PayPal; Trump children Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump and Ivanka Trump**
- **Executive Director: Rick Dearborn, chief of staff to Sen. Sessions**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS:

AFGHANISTAN

President: Hamid KARZAI; First V. Pres. Mohammad FAHIM Khan; Second V. Pres. Abdul Karim KHALILI

Challenges for Prayer: (*Operations World*)

The present political situation –

***The upheaval of the last 30 years* reduced the country to ruin and destitution.**

***Continued threat of violence.* The Taliban are very active.**

***Health risks.* Afghanistan is the world's most dangerous place for a child to be born.**

***The disabled.* There are an estimated one million people suffering with disabilities. Highest per capita rate!**

***Poverty and living standards.* Most Afghans live in poverty. There is little employment.**

***Drugs* are a scourge on the nation, and indeed the world, as Afghanistan grows 90% of the world's opium-producing poppies.**

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