

Sunday Sermon 5-24-2020

Acts 1:9-26

### Jesus' Ascension / Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

The ascension of Jesus into heaven is a very important miracle in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We tend to emphasize His work on the Cross and His Resurrection, but not His ascension.

**John 17:5**, “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

When Jesus came to earth, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes—when He left to go back to heaven, to the Father’s right hand, He was wrapped in glory.

#### **Acts 1:9-11 Jesus' Ascension**

**9** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- The 11 apostles and possibly some others saw and watched as He ascended, having been received in a cloud and finally out of their sight
- Two angels stood by them in white apparel and spoke to them—about His return
  - He will come back just as He left
  - **Zechariah 14:4**, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move to toward the north and half of it toward the south.
- The NT tells us by writers and Jesus’ own parables that we are to be watching and waiting and anticipating His return, conducting our lives and business in the meantime as His good and faithful ambassadors.

#### **Acts 1:12-26 Matthias Chosen in an Upper Room Prayer Meeting**

- A Sabbath day’s journey back to Jerusalem—to an upper room where they were staying—and they had a prayer meeting
  - The eleven, with the women and Mary, Jesus’ mother, and His brothers
    - Matthew 13:55 mentions the names—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. It did not mention His sisters
    - They were not praying to Mary

- This is the last mention of Mary, unless you take II John as a letter written to her from John the apostle
  - The eleven—
    - Peter, James, John, Andrew
    - Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew
    - James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James
- Peter led in the meeting—what we would call the business portion of the meeting
  - Reference made to David’s prophecy in **Psalm 69:25**, “Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents” and **Psalm 109:8**, “Let his days be few, and let another take his office”
  - **Zechariah 11:12-13**, “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. And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.”
  - Requirements for becoming the new 12<sup>th</sup> apostle to take Judas’ place
    - Having been with them from the time of Jesus’ baptism to the day He ascended
  - Two were chosen—Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.
  - They prayed for God’s direction, and then they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias
    - This is the last mention of casting lots in Scripture. From the time of Pentecost on, the Holy Spirit directed their decision making

## APPLICATION

- The book of Acts serves to bring the four Gospels to a focal point and transition into Christianity being in the New Testament Church.
  - Matthew concluded with the Resurrection
  - Mark with the Ascension
  - Luke with the promise of the Holy Spirit
  - John with Jesus’ return
- Now Acts has touched upon all of these and prepares us for the coming of the New Testament Church and the experience of the Church, the Jews, and the world until Jesus’ Second Coming to set up His Kingdom here on earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem
  - An expanded version of the Kingdom parables from Matthew 13
- Jesus’ ascension actually fulfilled a prophecy from Psalm 110:1 “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”.

# Four Lists of the Original Twelve Apostles

MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	ACTS
3:16–19	10:2–4	6:14–16	1:13

## FIRST GROUP OF FOUR

Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Simon Peter	Peter
James son of Zebedee	Andrew his brother	Andrew his brother	James
John brother of James	James son of Zebedee	James	John
Andrew	John his brother	John	Andrew

## SECOND GROUP OF FOUR

Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Matthew	Thomas	Matthew	Bartholomew
Thomas	Matthew the Publican	Thomas	Matthew

## THIRD GROUP OF FOUR

James son of Alphaeus			
Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Cananean	Simon the Cananean	Jude brother of James	Jude brother of James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	