

Acts 1:12-26 - The Next Disciple Outline and Notes

1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 1:12-26.

2. Remind the class where the plot of Acts is so far.

3. Discuss who is present, according to Acts 1:12-15.

- The disciples who are now apostles are listed, and so are Mary, “several other women,” and the brothers of Jesus; the full roster of supporters is 120
- What is it significant about the people mentioned? What is important about Mary, the other women, and the brothers of Jesus now being part of the team?

4. Discuss Peter (and Luke) telling the story of Judas in Acts 1:15-21.

- Peter, as leader of the disciples, expresses his thoughts about Judas
- Luke fills in information for readers, differing significantly from Matthew (27:3-10)
- Harmonization of Acts and Matthew: Judas commits suicide by attempting to hang himself, and then as rope breaks he falls to his death; field can be explained by Jewish leaders purchasing it in Judas’ name.

- How does Peter explain what happened to Judas? What do you think of his explanation? How does it help the disciples take their next steps?
- Have you ever had to come to terms with a traumatic death? How did you do it? What was helpful, comforting, and encouraging, and what was not?

5. Discuss the selection of Matthias in Acts 1:20-26.

- Qualifications for replacement: someone with them the entire time and thus knowledgeable and committed
- Two names surface: Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas; fervent prayer follows
- Cast lots: names on stone, placed in container, shaken then turned upside down
- Matthias chosen, thus making the number of the core leadership 12 again
- Why do you think the disciples make this decision in this way? (There were other ways to proceed, like Peter picking someone.) What theological presuppositions are behind the method they choose?
- How do we find God’s will as we make major decisions in our lives? How do we choose well between available options?

6. Close in prayer.