



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Leaders Identifying Leaders: An Essential of the Church

JUNE 5-7, 2013

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### Acts 1:15-26

*“And at this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together) and said, 16) ‘Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17) For he was counted among us and received his portion in this ministry’ 18) (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19) And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem, so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20) ‘For it is written in the book of Psalms, “LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO MAN DWELL IN IT”; and “HIS OFFICE LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE.” 21) It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22) beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection.’ 23) And they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was called Justus), and Matthias. 24) And they prayed, and said, ‘Thou Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two Thou hast chosen 25) to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ 26) And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” (NASB)*

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“ONE FURTHER MATTER NEEDED TO BE ATTENDED TO BEFORE THE LIFE OF THE DISCIPLE COMMUNITY WAS FULLY READIED FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE MISSION. THEY HAD TO REVISIT, AND DEAL WITH, THE TRAGIC AND EMBARRASSING ‘BUSINESS OF JUDAS.’”

BRUCE MILNE

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What is the other emphasis acquired through the focused prayer of the early Church? Is there significance in the number being about 120? Was Judas, because Christ chose him to be an Apostle, saved? Why were just the facts presented regarding Judas, rather than calling him a traitor, thief, etc.? What was the significance of his portion of the ministry? How was his “Field of Blood” acquired? Where is Judas’ “own place”? Are there those who fit the criteria to be Apostles today? How were the leaders that would change the world to be identified?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 12-14: ACTS 2:1-13 THE RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
- JUNE 19-21: ACTS 2:14-21 THE FIRST SERMON IN THE CAPITOL - PART 1: SALVATION OFFERED TO ALL

His Excellency, Theophilus, must have pondered the importance of prayer as he realized that it was the only thing that the early Church initially did. They had obeyed Jesus’ commands to stay in Jerusalem as they prayed and their prayer was characterized by unity because of their singular devotion to it. The only thing they add to their prayer is the fulfillment of the Word of God (Acts 6:4).

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“TWO THINGS GO TOGETHER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: PRAYER, IN WHICH WE TALK TO GOD, AND BIBLE STUDY, IN WHICH GOD TALKS TO US.”

JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 13900 NOBLEWOOD PLAZA

THURSDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

# Virginia

## Leaders Identifying Leaders: An Essential of the Church

### I. A THRONE VACATED

#### ACTS 1:15-17

Though they rejoiced that Jesus Christ was now seated on His throne at the right hand of God, as was proven by His ascension, their hearts were heavy regarding another vacant throne which Christ had promised. After Jesus had chosen the twelve, when the rich young ruler had chosen temporal riches rather than eternal riches and Christ had revealed the impossibility of the wealthy entering the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 19:24-26), Peter said, “*See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?*” Jesus replied, “*In the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (Mt. 19:27-28). Even after predicting His betrayer, Jesus gave them the same promise at the Last Supper (Lk. 22:30). As the 120 are gathered and devoted to prayer, Peter, who no doubt was concerned that there were now only eleven Apostles, suddenly stood up, to present both the problem and the biblical solution!

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“HERE THEN IS WARRANT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR TO JUDAS; FOR IT WOULD NOT BE FITTING TO LEAVE THE APOSTOLIC TOTAL SHORT BY ONE, WHEN THAT TOTAL WAS INTENTIONALLY FIXED BY JESUS TO CORRESPOND TO THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL”  
F. F. BRUCE

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### II. A TRAITOR VALIDATED

#### ACTS 1:18-20

Though Judas was the most trusted of the twelve in that he was their treasurer, he never trusted Jesus Christ! The horrible death of suicide and shame by one of the twelve, Peter reveals has been predicted. It is a twice bloody field, both by the bloody death of Judas in it, and by the precise blood money purchase of it (Mt. 27:5-10)! The first passage Peter quotes validates Judas’ destiny and proves that his throne is vacated (Ps. 69:21-25-28), and

the second quote from these Messianic Psalms again reveals his place of torment and tells them what to do about it (Ps. 109:3-8, 16). Judas has entered the reward of his sin, and has gone to “*his own place*” in hell, and they are responsible to find another apostle to fill “*his office*.”

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“PETER . . . DOES NOT APPOINT A SUCCESSOR TO JUDAS, NOR DO THE ELEVEN APOSTLES UNITE IN ELECTING A SUCCESSOR. THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRISTIANS IS CONSULTED.” CHARLES ERDMAN

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### III. THE TWO VENERATED

#### ACTS 1:21-26

Peter, as the spokesman for the eleven apostles, presents the criteria for the next apostolic leader to be chosen: 1) He must have been with Jesus and His apostles the entire three plus years of ministry, “*beginning with the baptism of John, until the day He was taken up from us.*” 2) He had to be an eyewitness “*with us of His resurrection.*” 3) He must be “*chosen*” by Jesus Christ. The 120 and the Apostles could identify all who had been with Jesus the entirety of His ministry and had seen Christ personally after His resurrection. But only by prayer would Jesus intervene by the lot to choose the next apostolic leader! Both Joseph and Matthias fit the criteria, but Christ, in answer to their prayers, chose the less likely, Matthias. Paul later fits the criteria as an eyewitness of the Risen Lord (Acts 9:3-9, I Cor. 15:8), is called by Christ (Acts 9:15), is personally trained by Jesus for three years (Gal. 1:12, 17-18), and his apostolic authority is recognized by Peter (2 Pet. 3:15-16). Christ chose leaders who evangelized the whole world!

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“GOD CHOOSES THOSE WHO SERVE HIM, AND EVERY MAN'S DESTINY IS DETERMINED BY WHAT HE DOES WITH CHRIST” JOHN MACARTHUR

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you commune with Christ in prayer and through time spent with Him in His Word?
- 2) Are you like the rich young ruler or Judas clinging to possessions or like the Apostles, what do you do with Jesus Christ?
- 3) Is your leadership characterized by being a witness for Christ in your sphere of influence?