

Table Group

Week of May 10, 2021

Acts 1:15-17,21-28

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This story can leave one with more questions than answers. Neither Joseph (Justus) or Matthias are mentioned again in the New Testament. The apostles prayed for God's direction, but not till after they had set up their parameters defining who could be nominated, limiting the choices to two. Does that matter? Did the Holy Spirit choose Matthias? Or, did the Holy Spirit step outside of what the apostles could conceive based on their traditional understanding of 'the elect'? Did God choose Saul/Paul instead of Matthias? Did God choose both?

What decisions have you made that you later questioned whether God had guided your decision?

Ponder these questions and share as you are comfortable:

- *What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?*
- *What temptations have you met with?*
- *How were you delivered?*
- *What have you thought, said, or done, of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?*
- *Have you nothing you desire to keep secret?*