

## **FAITHFUL BUT NOT PERFECT**

### **Acts 1:12-26**

**Introduction:** A promise was made, instructions given to go and wait as Jesus ascended back up into the heavens. How long must one wait? What exactly is the wait for? It was a week of waiting for the disciples of Jesus, but oh how the wait was worth it. They were obedient and waited.

### **I. EVERY PROPHECY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT RELATING TO JESUS' EARTHLY LIFE HAD HAPPENED (vv12)**

1. The mount called Olivet from which Jesus ascended had been divided into two parts by an earthquake in the days of Uzziah. *Zechariah 14:4; Ezekiel 11:23*
2. Jesus ascended from the part of the mount that was near Bethany. *Luke 24:50*
3. Jesus had begun His suffering there and it was only fitting that He should end it there. *Luke 22:39*

### **II. BEING BLESSED AND USEFUL TO THE LORD LIES IN BEING OBEDIENT (vv12-14)**

1. Although it was dangerous for them, the disciples returned to Jerusalem because Jesus had told them to go there and wait. They were obedient, regardless of the danger.
2. Waiting on the Lord is something that goes with being obedient. *Psalms 27:15; 62:5-7*  
*1 Chronicles 15:13*
3. Whatsoever the Lord commands us to do, we must obey Him, even wait.

### **III. EVEN THE BEST OF PEOPLE ARE STILL ONLY ORDINARY PEOPLE (vv15-26)**

1. Peter's efforts to choose a disciple replacement of Judas reveals that even faithful, true servants of God are weak and prone to error and sin.
2. Peter felt that it was the responsibility of the Church to fill the vacancy left by Judas.
3. Peter was motivated by an earnest desire to help and sought the will of God.
4. Peter sought to determine the will of God by casting lots (ballots) among the Church members. (Majority Rule)
5. It was Jesus who selected and ordained the first 12 disciples and it was Jesus who was to select and ordain the replacement, which would be Paul.
6. The man selected by the Church was Matthias. What is know about him?
7. What do we know about Paul, whom Jesus chose to replace Judas?

8. What did Peter do wrong? His motive was right. He wanted to help. He saw the need to find a replacement for Judas. He talked to the Lord about it. So what did he do wrong? A man was chosen by the people, not God, to do what God had not gifted him to do.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Peter was God's appointed leader for the early Church. He was GOD'S choice.
2. Peter was also a man. He was prone to sin and error. He was weak, he erred in judgment. He made a mistake.
3. Let us all remember that no matter how faithful one is, or obedient, or well meaning, not matter what position one might hold in the Church, that person is still imperfect and is prone to sin, error and mistakes.
4. We must learn to wait for God to show us exactly what His will is and Who He wants where and Who He wants to do what.
5. *"Those who wait upon the Lord shall....."*