

THE FIRST CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING ACTS 1

Text:

Introduction:

The disciples had gathered back together in the upper room.

As we consider some things in the book of Acts we will discover that the book of Acts is a book of many firsts.

- The first message of the new era 2:14-40
- The first persecution 4:1-4
- The First chastisement 5:1-11
- The First deacons 6:17
- The first sermon by a layman 7:2-53 (Stephen)
- The first Christian martyr 7:54-60 (Stephen)
- First Gentile converts 10:44-48

- First time the name Christian is used 11:26
- The first apostle killed 12:2
- First call to missionary service 13:1-2
- First preaching in Europe 16:12-13

In this passage tonight we have the first church business meeting.

From this we can learn several things that are helpful for us.

1. A PRAYING CHURCH (1:14)

Acts 1:14

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Notice:

- A. Inclusive Prayer (“They all”)
- B. Persistent Prayer (“continued”)
- C. Unified Prayer (“with one accord”) same mind

D. Earnest Prayer (“with prayer and supplication”)

Prayer = communion with God and request for general petitions.

Supplication = earnest request for specific needs.

2. A PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH (15-20)

Acts 1:15-20

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) 16Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

A. Reminder noted (vs 16)

B. Replacement needed

3. THE PATTERN IN THE CHURCH (21-26)

Acts 1:21-26

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. 23And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- The men presented were faithful (21)
“complained with us all the time”
 - A. They Proposed Solution (21-23)
 - B. They Paused For the Spirit (24-25) “Thou hast chosen “
 - C. The Practiced the Scriptures (26)

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.

The results were totally in God's hands.

They didn't Vote. The Church is not a democracy, but a theocracy.

They did not pray to direct God's choice, but to know, understand, and be settled with His will.