



Daily Reflections

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and sisters (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place).

He said, "My brothers and sisters,

the Scripture had to be fulfilled

which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus.

Judas was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry.

For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

Let his encampment become desolate, and may no one dwell in it.

and:

May another take his office.

Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection."

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the Eleven Apostles.

Our Scripture Reflection:

The number 11 was a scandalous number and a constant reminder of the betrayal by Judas. The Apostles, rather than carrying a lengthy decision making process, instead turn their concern over to the Lord and the Lord guides them to the replacement for Judas, Matthias. Now there are, once again, 12 Apostles and the mission can move forward "to the ends of the earth."

Food for your Journey:

Scripture mentions Matthias, the apostle who took Judas Iscariot's place, only once. Christians today remember him because five short verses in Acts describe the apostles casting lots to discover whom God would select to complete their number. Unlike the towering figures of Peter and Paul, we know nothing about Matthias or his accomplishments after becoming an apostle. Some might question whether he did anything significant, since he is not mentioned again.

We all have moments when we question the value of our work for Christ. We praise God for missionaries and for Christians who care for the sick, but we may wonder how our contributions can ever compare to their achievements. When I have these thoughts, the example of Matthias comforts me. God knew Matthias' heart and made him an apostle. Though Matthias did not win acclaim, he was chosen by God to fill a particular role.

As Christians, we can be sure God also has work for each of us. Whether we win wide acclaim or are known only by a few, our work's true value is found in our faithfulness.

—Matthew Ross, "The value of work." *The Upper Room*, September-October 2007, 37.

A Prayer from the Heart:

Dear Jesus, You have blessed me with the gifts of time and talent. Help me, Lord, to use these to give You glory and honor and praise. Amen.