

Recap of 2/28/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 1:21-26):

1. After praying and studying the Word of God, the disciples came to the conclusion it was necessary to replace Judas. They may have come to this decision on the basis of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 19:28 and Luke 22:30 that the twelve Apostles would sit on 12 thrones when He returns to reign on earth in the Millennium.

2. They read and studied the Word of God with a view toward obedience. Do we?

3. The two qualifications necessary for an Apostle were: 1) They had to have been with Jesus the whole time from John's baptism to the ascension; 2) They had to be a witness of the resurrection.

4. "Why such stringent requirements? Well, they underscore what the New Testament is forever telling us—that our faith is not based upon myths or legends; it is based on facts and events which men have seen, felt, heard, and been involved in....No, these things actually happened, and our faith rests upon the fact that they really occurred. For this reason the apostle chosen must be able to give witness that these things were actually true." (Stedman)

5. "In recent years there has been an increasing custom of censuring the early Christian for their action in electing an apostle to fill the place made vacant by Judas. It seems to require, however, considerable temerity to criticize men who, for forty days, had been receiving instruction from the risen Christ, and who, since His ascension, had been passing the hours in united prayer....The criticism arises wholly from the imagination of modern readers." (Erdman)

6. Biblical observations concerning God's will:

-To Paul, God's will was not something he sought out but something that he assumed was active in His life. Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 15:32; 1 Corinthians 1:1

-Before God's will involves an action, it involves an attitude. 2 Corinthians 8:5

-Yielding to the Spirit's control (walking in the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit) is essential to doing the will of God.

-Renewing our minds is foundational to knowing God's will. Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:11-6:3

-Prayer is essential to knowing the will of God. We should be praying for spiritual wisdom and understanding for ourselves and other believers. Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

-The flesh (our sinful natures) and Satan seek to deter us from the will of God. 1 Peter 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:24-26