

Sunday, May 16, 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 - Matthias added to the apostles

¹⁵Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said . . . ²¹“One of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²one 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.

There is no indication that there had been a command from the Lord to fill the position of the twelfth apostle, but the one hundred twenty believers seemed to feel the need.

Both Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias were fully qualified. Either one of them could have served.

The mistake would have been if the early believers had allowed not having a twelfth apostle to keep them from moving on.

They needed to make a decision and settle the issue so that they could move forward.

When have you been in a position where more than one option would have been good – maybe even equally good – but you needed to make a decision so that you could move on?

Psalm 1 - The LORD knows the way of the righteous

2 - Those whose delight is in the law of the Lord – who meditate on God’s teaching day and night -

3 - are like trees planted by streams of water.

They bear fruit in due season; their leaves do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

We who live in the desert should easily be able to relate to that image.

1 John 5:9-13 - Life in the Son of God

Such concepts as being born, abiding, and light vs. darkness are very much the way that the author of the Gospel of John and the first letter of John speaks.

Another way of phrasing it in John is in terms of eternal life.

Vs. the synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God Paul – justification, righteousness

¹¹ God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Cf. John 3: 16

John 17:6-19 - Christ's prayer for his disciples

John 17 contains the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible.

This is a prayer He prayed on His way from the Upper Room (where they had just had the Last Supper) to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He would agonize in prayer, be betrayed, and be arrested.

What would you pray – what and whom would you pray for - if you knew that you – and those whom you love – are about to face the most difficult time of your – and their – lives?

1 – Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.

4 – I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

5 – Glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

9 - I am asking on their behalf.

11 - Now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. . . . Holy Father, protect them in your name . . . so that they may be one, as we are one.

12 – While I was with them, I protected them in your name . . . I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

14 - The world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

15 - I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

16 - They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

18 - As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

20-21 – I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

21 – As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 – So that they may be one, as we are one.

23 – I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 – Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

The three commitments of a Christian –

- 1) To Christ – verse 21
- 2) To the church, the body of Christ – verses 21, 22, and 23
- 3) To ministry and mission, the work of Christ in the world – verse 18