

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #2 – 1:12 - 26

I. The Return to Wait (1:12 – 14)

Verse 12

Then

they returned to Jerusalem

from the hill called

the Mount of Olives, (place of the ascension)

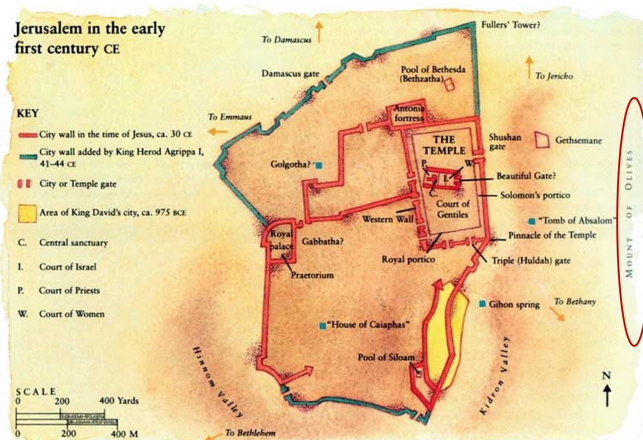
a Sabbath day's walk (day 1 of the waiting)

from the city.

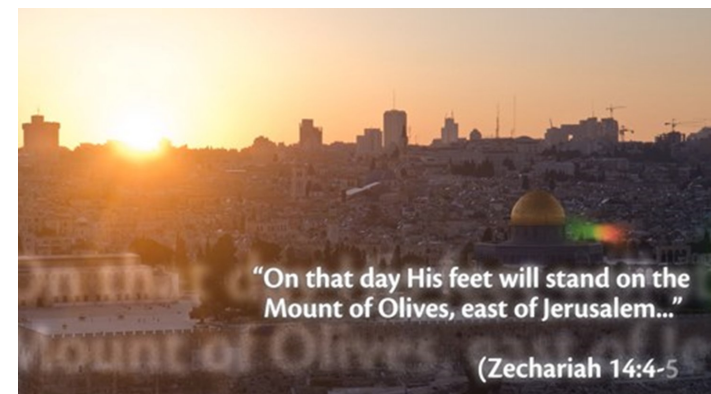
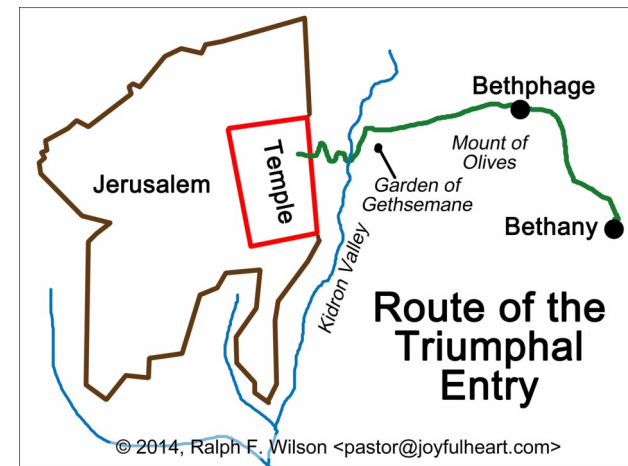
Jesus had commanded them to return to Jerusalem and wait (1:4) How long between the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost (chapter 2)?

- 1) Jesus ascended after spending **40 days** with the disciples (1:3)
 - 2) The day of Pentecost = **50 days** after Passover
 - 3) Therefore, there were **10 days** until Pentecost
- “Sabbath day’s walk” – special laws on the Sabbath about how many steps you can take. **2,000 cubits! (.596 miles)**

The Mount of Olives



About 200 feet above the city, the mount of Olives is after the Kidron Valley, and after Gethsemane but before Bethany.



Verse 13

When they arrived,
they went upstairs (roof top location for prayer)
to the room
where they were staying.

Those present were
Peter, John, James (the Inner Circle)
and Andrew; Philip and Thomas,
Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus
and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

Luke records only 11 disciples here ---- Judas is dead.

<u>Matthew 10:2-4</u>	<u>Mark 3:13-19</u>	<u>Luke 6:12-16</u>	<u>Acts 1:13-14</u>
Simon (Peter)	Simon (Peter)	Simon (Peter)	Peter
James, son of Zebedee	James, son of Zebedee	James	James
John, the brother of James	John, the brother of James	John	John
Andrew	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew
Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas
James, son of Alphaeus	James, son of Alphaeus	James, son of Alphaeus	James, son of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus	Thaddaeus	----	----
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	----
----	----	Judas the son of James	Judas the son of James

Verse 14

They all joined together (proskartereo = lit. endured together = they were in unity and readiness)

constantly (homothymadon = lit. in unison – harmonizing together – used 10 times in Acts – one passion – one of the KEY concepts in the book of Acts.)

in prayer, (proseuche = calling out to God)
[and supplication] (deesis = desperate seeking)

along with

- 1) the women (wives?)
- 2) and Mary the mother of Jesus,
- 3) and with his brothers. (James, Joseph, Judas, and

Simon – Mk. 6:3; Matt. 13:55-56 – they did not believe until after the resurrection!)

II. Peter's Suggestion (1:15 – 20)

Verse 15

In those days

Peter

stood up among the believers (mathetes = disciples)
(a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

The beginning number of the church is 120!

Peter takes his role as the leader to initiation change.

Peter will be the leader through the Jerusalem phase of the story. However, Peter is not given any “special” authority by Christ – any more than the others.

Verse 16

and said,

"Brothers,

the Scripture (graphe = Holy scripture/law and prophets)

had to be fulfilled (pleroo = brought to finish)
which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago
through the mouth of David
concerning Judas,

who served as guide (hodegos = leader of the way)
for those who arrested Jesus—

Peter's wisdom led him to know that Judas did not spoil God's plan, he fulfilled it!

Verse 17

he was

one of our number (katarithmeo = joined in purpose)
and shared (lagchano = obtained by lot)
in this ministry.“ (diakonia = service)

While Judas was established as part of the ministry along with the other disciples, he chose to follow the ministry of Satan instead of Christ. However, this was part of the plan of God from the beginning of time.

Verse 18

(With the reward

he got for his wickedness,
Judas bought a field;
there he fell headlong,
his body burst open
and all his intestines spilled out.

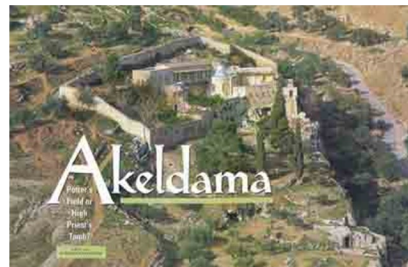
Doctor Luke would be a person more interested in the body and would want to report the final reward of one who chose to deny Christ in the way Judas did.

Most regard this as what happened when Judas' body was cut from the tree where he hung himself. (Matt. 27:5)

Verse 19

Everyone in Jerusalem
heard about this,

so they called that field
in their language
Akeldama, (Aramaic language = field of blood)
that is, Field of Blood.)



Verse 20

"For,"

said Peter,

"it is written (grapho) *in the book of Psalms,* "
'May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,'
and, " 'May another take his place of leadership.'

Peter quotes from two separate psalms (Ps. 69 and 109) to support his words that Judas' choice was part of the plan of God. This is the first time we have recorded that Peter quotes scripture.

David, the writer of these quotes, knew what it was like to be betrayed by people – specifically Doeg (I Sam. 21-22). David prays for the betrayer to get justice from God.

The Psalms were always in the thoughts of the faithful Jews.

III. Qualifications and Nominations (1:21 – 23)

Verse 21

Therefore

it is necessary

to choose one of the men

1) **who have been with us**

(synerchomai = alongside)

the whole time

(chronos = human time)

the Lord Jesus

went in and out among us,

The first qualification is **faithfulness** along the journey. Many had come and gone through Jesus' ministry on earth. Only a few stayed faithfully. **A true disciple perseveres through trials!**

Verse 22

beginning from John's baptism
to the time when Jesus
was taken up from us.

The whole time = from the beginning to the end! Three and half years – both good and bad times.

For one of these

2) **must become a witness** (martyrs = willing to die)
with us

of his resurrection.“

Qualification #2 – **An eyewitness of the resurrection** of Christ – as well as the 40 days with Christ after the resurrection.

We see no evidence that these qualifications came from the Holy Spirit or from some kind of special revelation from God.

Verse 23

So they proposed
two men:

- 1) Joseph called Barsabbas
(also known as Justus)
- 2) and Matthias.

Were these the only two qualified to be considered?

There is NO more information about Matthias or Joseph (Barsabbas) in the Bible.

NOTE: There is no information about any of the disciples except Peter and John after Acts 1.

IV. Prayer and Casting Lots (1:24 – 26)

Verse 24

Then they prayed,

"Lord,

you know everyone's heart. (kardiognostes)

ONLY Christ knows people's true heart!

Show (anadeiknymi = reveal publically) *us*

which (hos = whether or not) *of these two*

you have chosen (eklegomai = to be set apart by God)

A wonderful precedent! As Jesus spent the night in prayer prior to the selection of the first disciples (Lk. 6:12-13), so Peter and the disciples prayed for discernment prior to the selection of Judas' replacement.

Verse 25

to take over

this apostolic ministry,

which Judas left (parabaino = to abandon by choice)

to go where he belongs."

Where does Judas belong?

Verse 26

Then they cast lots, (kleros = selection using wooden pieces)
and the lot (kleros) *fell to Matthias;*

so he was added (sygkatapsephizomai = To vote by adding names/tokens into an urn)

to the eleven apostles.

It appears that the two men were ultimately evaluated by the existing disciples and they determined which one would best fulfill the role as a witness and representative of Christ into the future.

Legend holds that he preached in Cappadocia (Turkey) and later in Ethiopia. He was ultimately stoned to death and beheaded by the Jews.

Prayer Concerns