

Time Audit Chronicles: Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas (Acts 1:12-26)

Prologue: A Time of Waiting and Seeking Guidance

The Presswood family gathered around the table, reading **Acts 1:12-26**, where the apostles face the challenge of replacing Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed Jesus. Ariel had been reflecting on how the apostles were in a period of uncertainty, waiting for the **Holy Spirit** to come. Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter in her arms, was imagining the apostles praying together, asking God to guide them in such an important decision.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, “Why did the apostles need to choose someone to replace Judas? Wasn’t it enough with just the eleven of them?”

Ryan nodded, understanding Ariel’s question. “That’s a great question, Ariel. The number **twelve** was very important to the disciples because it symbolized the **twelve tribes of Israel**. Jesus had called twelve apostles to be His closest followers, and it was important that the group remained complete. So, after Judas’ betrayal and death, they felt the need to replace him to restore the number of apostles.”

Ariel thought for a moment. “So, this was more than just about getting a new leader—it was about fulfilling what Jesus had started and keeping the symbolism of the twelve apostles intact.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “But what’s most important in this story is the way the apostles went about choosing the new leader. They didn’t just pick someone based on their own judgment—they turned to God for **guidance**. It’s a great example of how we should make decisions, especially important ones.”

Ariel nodded, intrigued. “So, they prayed and asked God to show them the right person?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and see how they prayed, sought God’s will, and made this important decision together.”

The Journey Begins: The Apostles’ Prayerful Decision (Acts 1:12-14)

The **Time Audit Machine** hummed to life, and the family found themselves standing with the apostles in the **upper room** in Jerusalem. The disciples had returned from the Mount of Olives, where they had witnessed Jesus’ **ascension**. The mood was one of anticipation and unity, as they waited for the promised **Holy Spirit**. But before anything else could happen, there was an important decision to make.

Ryan pointed to the apostles, who were gathered in **prayer** and **fellowship**, along with the women who had followed Jesus, including **Mary, the mother of Jesus**. “The apostles knew they had to **replace Judas** before moving forward, but they didn’t rush into the decision. They gathered together to pray and seek God’s will.”

Ariel looked at the scene. “So, they were praying together, waiting on God, before they did anything else?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The apostles understood the importance of this decision, and they wanted to make sure it was in line with God’s plan. They didn’t just pick the next person they thought would be good for the job—they prayed for God’s **guidance** and for the Holy Spirit to direct them.”

The Selection Process: Qualifications for Judas’ Replacement (Acts 1:15-22)

Peter stood up in the midst of the gathered disciples and began speaking. He reminded them of **Judas’ betrayal**, how he had fallen into sin and met a tragic end. Then, Peter said, “**Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning 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.**” (Acts 1:21-22).

Ariel listened closely. “Peter is saying that the person they choose needs to be someone who has been with them from the beginning—someone who has **witnessed** Jesus’ ministry and resurrection.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “The apostles knew that to replace Judas, they needed someone who had been an active part of their ministry, someone who could testify to **Jesus’ resurrection** and the **gospel** they were called to spread. The new apostle needed to be an eyewitness, just as the other apostles were.”

Ariel smiled. “So, it wasn’t just about picking anyone—they had to find someone who had been with them through everything and who could testify to the truth of Jesus’ life and resurrection.”

“Yes,” Ryan agreed. “And this decision wasn’t just based on what made sense to them—it was about finding someone **qualified** for the mission Jesus had entrusted to them.”

The Nominees: Joseph and Matthias (Acts 1:23-26)

Two men were nominated for the position: **Joseph called Barsabas**, also known as **Justus**, and **Matthias**. The disciples had narrowed it down to two faithful men who had been with them from the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

Ariel observed the situation carefully. “So, they had two good choices, both of whom had followed Jesus faithfully. But how would they decide between them?”

Ryan nodded. “The apostles didn’t just decide based on their own preferences or opinions. They turned to **God** to reveal His choice. They prayed, saying, ‘**Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.**’ (Acts 1:24).”

Ariel was amazed. “So, they prayed for God to show them which man was His choice, because only God knew their hearts.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The apostles were trusting God to reveal the right person. And after they prayed, they cast lots to determine the decision. **Casting lots** was a way of seeking God’s guidance in matters like this, trusting that God would make the decision clear.”

Ariel smiled. “So, they trusted God to guide them through the **casting of lots**—and **Matthias** was chosen as the new apostle.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Matthias was selected to join the eleven apostles and to continue the mission of spreading the Gospel to the world. The decision wasn’t just a **human choice**—it was a prayerful, Spirit-led process.”

Key Teaching: Prayerful Decision-Making in Leadership

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection. Ariel turned to her father, her thoughts filled with the way the apostles had handled such an important decision.

“Jesus had already chosen the twelve apostles, but it was still important that they sought God’s guidance in replacing Judas,” Ariel said. “They didn’t just pick someone—**they prayed** for God to lead them to the right person.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “This story shows us how important it is to make decisions with God’s guidance, especially in leadership. When we face big decisions—whether in the church, at home, or in our lives—we should always seek God’s will through prayer and trust that He will guide us in the right direction.”

Ariel smiled. “So, they weren’t just relying on their own wisdom—they trusted God to show them the way.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “And that’s how we should approach all of life’s decisions. Leadership, especially in the church, is about being in tune with God’s will and making decisions that align with His purposes.”

Takeaway: Prayerful Decision-Making in Leadership

In **Acts 1:12-26**, we see the apostles make an important decision to **replace Judas** with a new member of the Twelve. This decision was not made lightly or based on personal preferences—it was a prayerful process. The apostles **sought God’s guidance** through prayer and asked the Holy Spirit to lead them to the right person. They trusted God to reveal His will, and through the casting of lots, **Matthias** was chosen as the new apostle. This story teaches us the importance of **prayerful decision-making** in leadership, reminding us that God knows our hearts and will guide us when we seek His will. In every decision—whether big or small—we are called to rely on God’s guidance and trust that He will lead us according to His purpose.