



## **THE PLAN OF GOD WILL BE FULFILLED**



Acts 1:15-26

**I read somewhere that this text is considered to be the very first church business meeting.**

One pastor called a **SPECIAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**

(They were not deciding on a new Apostle or anything)

They needed to approve the purchase of a brand new chandelier.

After some discussion, an old farmer stood up and said, "Buying a new chandelier may seem like a good idea to you, but I'm against it - **for three reasons.**

- One, it's too expensive.
- Two, there isn't anybody around here who knows how to play one.
- three, what we really need is a new light fixture."

**THIS TEXT is More than a church business meeting**

**We see things happen here.**



### **1. THE APOSTLES ARE ACTING ON JESUS WORDS**

Peter knew there needed to be **12 Apostles**

**Matthew 19:28**

**"Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

The way they chose the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle was to examine all the disciples and find out who had been there all along the way

**From the Baptism of John to the Ascension.**

2 guys were qualified **Joseph and Matthias**

Next they had to decide which one would get the JOB.

So they acted according to scripture



**And THEY ACTED ACCORDING TO THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD**

**Casting lots** is an Old Covenant way of allowing the lord to decide.

**Proverbs 16:33**

**The lot is cast into the lap,**

**but its every decision is from the Lord.**

When we talk about casting lots we usually are referring to ...

Drawing straws

Flipped a coin

Or rolled dice.



The way the Hebrews cast lots in the temple was by hands.

Say they needed to pick someone to offer the lamb on the altar.

The leader would pick a number. Like 22

They would line the priests up and have them present one of their hands

They could put up 1 finger or all 5 depending on how willing they were to do the service.

Then the leader would count and where it stopped would be the volunteer.

Personally I never made it a practice to make decisions by drawing lots.

**Ill tell you why...**

**(No where in the New Testament are Christians instructed to make decisions using this method.)**

**You and I have the Holy Spirit - reveals his will to us**

**Prayer**

**Discernment**

**Wisdom**

**We have Jesus to be our guide.**

**the Word of God**



**Ephesians 5:17**

**Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Over the years I have heard well meaning folks talk about their spiritual methods for making a decision



**INTERPRETING MY OWN TONGUES...**

**1 Corinthians 14:13**

**Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.**

But not to find the will of God for your life

It's to be done in public and its purpose is to edify the believer and be a sign to the unbeliever.



### **POINTING AND SHOOTING AT THE BIBLE**

I know some Christians do this sometimes ... It happens when you throw open the flyleaf of your Bible for an answer

**Proverbial Example - Judas Hung himself, go and do likewise.**



### **LAYING OUT A FLEECE**

This come from the story of Gideon

**Judges 6:39**

**Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew."**

Gideon was testing the Lord. And seeking a sign

**Matthew 12:39**

**JESUS said "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign,**

Gideon did not have the word of God or the Holy Spirit to guide HIM.

You do.

Rather than signs or fleeces we should be content to know God's will for us in every situation.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly – in every situation

Be joyful always in every situation

Pray continually in every situation

Give thanks in every situation

For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

If these things characterize our life we won't need to seek a sign

**THE APOSTLES WERE ACTING ACCORDING TO THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD.**

They were acting on Jesus Words



The second thing going on here

**2. THEY SAW THEMSELVES AS BEING PART OF THE FULFILLMENT OF AN ANCIENT MESSIANIC PROPHECY**

**Acts 1:16**

**"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;**

He says,

"The scripture had to be fulfilled

And what was the scripture

**Acts 1:20**

**'For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'**

THESE ARE TWO DIFFERENT OLD TESTAMENT QUOTES

Psalm 69:25

Psalm 109:8

**I would like you to put yourself in the place of the 120**

They were waiting, for the purpose of God to be fulfilled. The out pouring of the Holy Spirit..

One of the things they did was search the scriptures

Jesus had opened their minds and they understood God's plan

There were no mysteries anymore

**Then they heard a report**

*Judas had hung himself from a tree and the rope broke, his body fell to the ground and burst open..*

**They had lived with Judas all those years**

Yet he had Been the deceiver

The enemy all along

Suddenly as they searched the scriptures and prayed the Holy Spirit illumined



**Psalm 69:25**

**May their place be deserted;**

**let there be no one to dwell in their tents.**

This is a messianic Psalm.

Royal Psalm

A psalm of David

Where David talks about His enemies

And what's going to happen to them.

**But it's messianic Prophecy**

So it's also talking about Jesus

And THE Enemy is OBVIOUS— **its Judas.**

Then they read the other Royal Psalm



Psalm 109:8 says....

May his days be few;

may another take his place of leadership.

**BOTH, TEXTS DESCRIBING THE FATE OF THE ENEMY'S OF THE MESSIAH**

**AND IT OCCURRED TO THEM THAT THEY WERE LIVING AT A MOMENT WHEN PROPHETIC HISTORY WAS TAKING PLACE.**

Judas death teaches us something important about the Spirit



### **3. THE LESSON FOR US**

**WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS SOMETHING,  
IT WILL HAPPEN**

the Holy Spirit is  
invincible  
Eternal  
Absolute  
and Unstoppable

**God is not only a loving God  
But he is also a determined and purposeful**

I want you to Imagine for a minute A little Child walking hand in hand with her father..

God has you by the hand.  
He loves you.

You trust him.

Things are good between you and HIM because your sins are forgiven

There is a smile on his face and his eyes are filled with love  
AND His hand is firm and caring

AS you walk along

A very scary looking man approaches

He is wild and crazy  
angry and dangerous

He stops and he threatens you

you feel terrified.

And as you turn your face away from this threat and look up to your father

What do YOU want to see?

You don't want to see a smile on his face and eyes filled with love

You want to see SOME DAD POWER

And you want to feel a new kind of grip

The kind of grip that says, "no one can take you out of my hand."

You can imagine a picture like that?

What is the point

In our Christian life

We need to see

the gentle ministry of the Holy Spirit

We see that often

We hear about that often

But we also Need to see the Holy Spirit's STRENGTH

Is there anything



or anyone,  
 or any enemy  
 that is going to stand in the way of Gods plans fulfilled?  
 NO

The text we read today  
 Reveals that even the purposes of God prophesied a Long time  
 ago  
 ARE Fulfilled  
 BECAUSE GOD NEVER FAILS  
 There is nothing that is going to stand in the way of God's plans  
 being fulfilled.

That is a pretty important truth  
 FOR YOU AND ME  
 for the promises of the Lord

- I will never leave you or forsake you
- I will meet all your needs according to my riches and glory by  
 Christ Jesus
- And His Promise BEHOLD I am coming soon

Will be fulfilled - - - Don't Doubt Him  
 He is A determined Father  
 And he will see you through.  
 No matter what enemy stands in your way.

**I think that's what this text is mainly about.  
 A PROMISE GIVEN WILL BE FULFILLED.**

**When you are going through a difficult time hanging on to the  
 promises of God**

God is not worried;  
There is no panic in his face;  
Only the confidence of an invincible purpose...

He has spoken **AND IT HAS TO BE.**

If you long for the promises of God

then YOU must believe that God will make good on his promise in  
your life.

No matter what the circumstances we see or feel