

Acts 1:12

Then they **returned to Jerusalem** from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Spiritual complacency has no place in our souls nor in the church.

#1: Commitment to unmodified and uncomfortable **obedience**

How many of us would have just gone home (or gone back to our 'normal')?

- Power of fear
- Power of social pressure
- Power of being sentimental/nostalgic
- Power of selective obedience (*easy, natural*)

Holy Spirit descends upon the **submitted**.

Half-Truths That Become Whole Truths:

- Jesus meets us where we are at = ½ Truth!!
- Accepted Jesus as my Savior = ½ Truth!!
- Salvation is free = ½ Truth!!

Acts 1:13-14

And when they had entered, **they** went up to the upper room, where **they** were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with **one accord** were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Diversity:

- Personalities
- Men and Women
- Judeans & Galileans
- Politics (Matthew & Simon)
- Socioeconomics

Power of Jesus to unify AND to give us an identity that transcends human categories.

#2: Commitment to uncommon (inexplicable) **community.**

Commitment matters more than compatibility.

- **To be FAMOUS IN HELL we can't look like what's typical in this world**
- **How do we learn to love like Jesus loved if we only connect with people easy for us to like & love?**

Acts 1:14

All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

#3: Commitment to **unceasing prayer → **pray until you pray**.**

Acts 1:15-17

In those days **Peter stood up** among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, **the Scripture had to be fulfilled**, which **the Holy Spirit** spoke **beforehand** by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

Peter's Message:

- **Sovereignty of God over an enemy**
- **Fulfillment of Scripture → God's faithfulness**
- **Dealing with enemies on God's terms**

Acts 1:18-20a

(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his **wickedness**, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 “For it is written **in the Book of Psalms**, “*May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it*” ...

Peter's Message:

- **Sovereignty of God over an enemy**
- **Fulfillment of Scripture → God's faithfulness**
- **Dealing with enemies on God's terms**
- **Unity derived from truth**
- **Be led by faith (flowing from Truth), not feelings**

#4: Commitment to seeking **the mind of Christ**

Acts 1:20b-22

... and “*Let another take his office.*”²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John

until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a **witness to his resurrection.**”

The church has to be organized: {Gifts & Offices + Organization & Cooperation}

- Not a democracy
- Not a dictatorship

Acts 1:23-26

And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called **Justus, and Matthias.** ²⁴ And they **prayed** and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they **cast lots** for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Justus & Matthias:

- Showed up (*regularly*)
- Servant’s posture/attitude

The humility of availability:

- Play visible parts without pride
- Play unseen parts without jealousy or comparison

Justus:

- Disappointed? Discouraged? Sinful?
- Going to Serve: in submission & where needed

#5: Commitment to **contribute**

1st Generation vs. 2nd Generation Faith:

- Church gets “settled” → maintenance over mission
- Personal responsibility vs. someone else will do it
- Sacrifice vs. Comfort
- No limits for the Holy Spirit vs. Limited commitment

Second-generation faith is death to any movement, but God is NOT finished with His church!