**Part 5 – Vacancy**

*Acts 1:15-26*

* Please search the Scriptures with us. We’re in the New Testament, which is in the last quarter of the Bible. Don’t be afraid to use your index.
* If you don’t have a Bible but you have a smartphone, you can download the Y-O-U Version Bible App. Once you download it, you can go to the “More” tab, tap “Events,” and find Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and you can see the Scripture, notes, quotes, and references. If you’re outside Habersham County, you may need to search for D-E-M-O-R-E-S-T, Georgia to find the church.

**Introduction**

* You may recognize some of the prominent leaders and organizations. Bill Johnson at Bethel Church in Redding, California; Mike Bickle, with the International House of Prayer, also known as “IHOP”; Cindy Jacobs, with Generals International, in Texas; C. Peter Wagner; Lou Engle, with The Call; Chuck Pierce with Glory of Zion International, in Texas, and Ché Ahn, the founder and president of Harvest International Ministry and the international chancellor of Wagner University.
* “Apostle” Brian Simmons, who claims that Christ visited him personally and commissioned him to release a new translation of the Bible. It’s now called “The Passion Translation.” Simmons worked as the lone translator, and he’s acknowledged that he’s not a scholar in the original languages of the Bible. “The Passion Translation” has been endorsed by Bill Johnson and Ché Ahn. Don’t give this Bible away. Get rid of it.

**Significance**

Is there an apostolic vacancy today? If so, how does the church fill the vacancy?

**Passage Background and Context Information**

Jesus’ apostles have returned to Jerusalem from Mount of Olives, where Jesus ascended. They wait in Jerusalem as Jesus commanded and pray to be immersed in the person of the Holy Spirit who would empower them for witnessing about Jesus to the world. While they are waiting and united in persistent prayer, with 120 followers of Jesus gathered, the Apostle Peter stood up and acknowledged that Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus and committed suicide. The vacancy must be filled.

**Question #1**

Why fill the vacancy?

**Bible Verse**

###### Acts 1:15-17 (CSB)

15In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters  — the number of people who were together was about a hundred and twenty — and said:

16“Brothers and sisters, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David foretold about Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

17For he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. (15-17)**

**Bible Verse**

###### 2 Samuel 7:13 (CSB)

13He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

**Question #2**

Is there still a vacancy? Are there apostles today?

**Bible Verse**

###### Acts 1:18-22 (CSB)

18Now this man acquired a field with his unrighteous wages. He fell headfirst, his body burst open and his intestines spilled out.

19This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that in their own language that field is called Hakeldama (that is, Field of Blood).

20“For it is written in the Book of Psalms: Let his dwelling become desolate; let no one live in it; and Let someone else take his position.

21“Therefore, from among the men who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us —

22beginning from the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us — from among these, it is necessary that one become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ states the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (18-22)**

**Explanation**

* **The essential qualifications of an acceptable successor to Judas are then set forth:**
* (1) **A \_\_\_.**
* (2) **Must be an associate of the Lord and his apostles from the time of John the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ activity to the day of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* (3) **Must be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* (4) **Must be commissioned by \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Revelation 2:2: “You tested those who call themselves apostles, yet are not, and you found them to be false.”

**The Big Question**

What or who guides the church?

**Bible Verse**

###### Acts 1:23-26 (CSB)

23So they proposed two: Joseph, called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

24Then they prayed, “You, Lord, know everyone’s hearts; show which of these two you have chosen

25to take the place in this apostolic ministry that Judas left to go where he belongs.”

26Then they cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_. (23-26)**

**Bible Verse**

###### Proverbs 16:33 (CSB)

33The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord .

**Pray**

“Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I deserve Your judgment of death and hell. But I believe You love me, came down for me, lived a perfect life, and shed Your blood and died on the cross for my sins. I also believe that God raised You from the dead for the forgiveness of my sins, to change me, and grant me everlasting life. Please forgive me, help me, and give me eternal life. I believe You are my Forgiver and God. I give my life to love, obey, and make much of You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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Baptism

www.mtcarmeldemorest.com/baptism

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Colossians 1:9-14

9  For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,  
10  so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,  
11  being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully  
12  giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light.  
13  He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.  
14  In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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