

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

CONSEQUENCES (ACTS 1:15–20) “IN THOSE DAYS...”

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, the apostles and other followers of Jesus (approximately 120 men and women) were gathered together. This would have been sometime before Pentecost, which is 50 days after Passover.

- God never stopped working in His people's lives. **He's always at work in ours.**

THE MYSTERY OF SOVEREIGNTY AND FREE WILL

Judas's actions fulfilled David's prophecy given 1,000 years earlier in Psalms 69:25 and 109:8. Yet Peter says Judas “became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.” David prophesied the willful betrayal of Judas.

- God's sovereignty over all things and our responsibility for our decisions are not mysteries to God. **Live obediently for God.**

REMOSE VS. REPENTANCE

Peter, who denied Jesus three times, is now the leader to whom each of the disciples looks for direction. Judas, who betrayed the Lord for money, committed suicide and his money was used to purchase a burial ground. Both bitterly wept—Peter unto repentance, but Judas only in remorse.

- **Sorrow for sin isn't repentance.**

CLOSENESS TO JESUS ISN'T SALVATION

Judas was “one of our number and shared in [His] ministry,” just like Peter. Judas heard the teachings, saw the healings, cried in fear as Jesus calmed the storm, and laughed and rejoiced at the water turning into wine.

- **Our works for Jesus don't cause our salvation. Don't take new life in Jesus for granted. Embrace Him; don't tolerate Him.**

CHOSEN (ACTS 1:21–26)

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN APOSTLE

Because of Judas's betrayal and death, a man was to be chosen to replace him—not just any man but one who was an eyewitness of Jesus' earthly ministry, starting with His baptism and continuing through His death and resurrection.

- All followers of Jesus are disciples (learners). But only a few could be apostles (sent ones) as eyewitnesses to all Jesus did.

OFFICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Within the church, there are different kinds of offices (apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, deacons). Ephesians 4:11–12 says some of these are given to equip the saints to do the work of ministry. Apostles and prophets (defined biblically) have fulfilled their work and are no longer needed. While equipping for ministry is still needed, **all of us share the responsibility to make disciples.**

WHY A REPLACEMENT FOR JUDAS?

We'll find out in Acts 12:1–2 that James, the brother of John, will be the first of the apostles martyred. James is not replaced. For the birth of the church that is about to happen, the 12 apostles correspond to the 12 tribes of Israel. Matthias will complete that number. Also, eyewitnesses to the ministry and resurrection of Jesus give credibility to the message.

MATTHIAS CHOSEN

Based on Psalm 109:8 (“let another take over his position”), they knew Judas needed to be replaced. Choosing Joseph and Matthias, the people prayed, asking for God's person to be chosen. Then they cast lots (pre-Holy Spirit, a trusted method in the OT; Proverbs 16:33), and Matthias was chosen.

- With the Bible and indwelling Holy Spirit, **we have all we need to live righteously.**
- Proverbs 16:33 (CSB)

THE SPIRIT (ACTS 2:1–4)

PENTECOST

Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) was a pilgrimage festival 50 days after Passover. Pentecost is associated with several ideas, including thanksgiving for the spring harvest, an offering of first fruits from the harvest, and Moses receiving the law. Like Passover, Jerusalem was filled with thousands of Jewish pilgrims from all over the world for Pentecost.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FALLS ON THEM

The 120 were gathered together again, which seemed to be a regular practice. Without warning, they heard something like “a violent rushing wind” from Heaven which filled the house. Then something like tongues of fire fell on each of them, which was unique to the beginning of the Church.

- **By faith, they waited for the promised Holy Spirit, and Jesus delivered.**

WIND AND FIRE

There is a strong connection between the wind and fire and the OT. The Hebrew word for both wind and spirit is *ruach*, which can be seen in Ezekiel 37:9–10. Fire is often a picture of the presence of God (the burning bush, the pillar of fire, God answering Elijah's prayer on Mt. Carmel).

- **The OT both anticipates and prepares us for the coming of Jesus and the Church.**

WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

Everyone in the room was filled with the Holy Spirit. There wasn't a special filling for the apostles and something different for everyone else. The Spirit distributed to all—men and women—and enabled all as He chose.

- Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3:8 that the Spirit blows where **He pleases**. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12 that the Spirit distributes gifts as **He sees fit**.

OH BOY... THE TONGUES

The languages the disciples speak seem to be known earthly languages that they had no previous ability in.

- In the NT, “tongues” seems to refer to: 1) known earthly languages with no previous learning, or 2) some type of heavenly language (1 Corinthians 13:1), which one can speak publicly (with an interpreter) or privately in prayer.

IT STARTS (ACTS 2:5–13)

THE DIVERSE CROWD

Hellenistic Jews (those who adopted Greek language, culture, and customs) would return to Jerusalem during the pilgrimage festivals. While these Jews might be more worldly than Hebraic Jews, many were no less devout in their worship of God and commitment to the Law of Moses.

- These would be the perfect people to hear the gospel and take it to the ends of the earth.

THE CROWD GATHERS

The room where the disciples met was likely close to the temple. They exited that room and went out into the temple. The crowd had heard the sound and now heard Galilean Jews speaking in all the different languages represented (some estimate over 20 different languages).

- **While miracles are awesome, they are most often pointing to something greater.**

FOR ALL PEOPLE

While the majority of the people hearing the disciples speak were Jews, the fact that they came from all over the Eastern Roman Empire shows that God's salvation work was moving from one nation only to all nations and all people. The beginning of the fulfillment of the Great Commission had begun.

- **Only we can limit the scope of the gospel.**

BAPTIZED AND FILLED

The Holy Spirit rested on all the disciples (baptism). They were filled with the Spirit, resulting in an overflow of praising God publicly and unashamedly.

- As Corey said last week, we stay filled with the Spirit by staying in relationship with the Spirit through prayer, reading the Bible, and obeying. **But we are filled to go, serve, and tell.**

RESPONSES

Throughout Acts, we will see three primary responses to the gospel: 1) repentance and belief, 2) outright (sometimes hostile) rejection, and 3) curiosity with a desire to hear more.

- Are we prepared for people's reactions? **Are we ready to disciple a new Believer, endure persecution and rejection, and answer questions about our faith?**

HOW ARE WE LIVING?

- What are ways we see the Spirit at work in our lives?
- We have to live in a way that will keep us from going down the path of Judas.
- When we take our salvation for granted, we open to the door to unbelief.
- **Is Jesus our ticket to Heaven or our Lord whom we love with all our hearts?**

WE HAVE THE SPIRIT IN US

- With the Spirit and the Bible, we have all we need to live a life pleasing to God.
- **While there are still positions of leadership in the church, all are called, equipped, and held responsible to go and make disciples.**
- In the OT, the presence of God was mainly in a place (temple). Now His presence is in us. **Do people see Jesus in us?**
- The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (His daily provision, healing, sustaining through trials, protection, wisdom, giftings, etc.) is a means to **praise** and **proclamation**.
- Our culture desperately needs to see and know that they have been created for a purpose. **If we aren't letting our lights shine, we are letting darkness win.**