

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 31ST–FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

NECESSITY (ACTS 1:15–22)

“PETER STOOD UP AMONG [THEM]”

Peter stepped into a role of leadership among the disciples and spoke with wisdom that was not often seen in him before. With wisdom and maturity, he pointed out that **Judas's betrayal of Jesus didn't spoil God's plan but fulfilled it.**

- **What happened with Judas was necessary in God's plan for redemption.**

FULFILLMENT OF ZECHARIAH 11:13

Matthew says Judas hanged himself, and Luke tells us his body fell and burst open in the **Field of Blood** (*Hakeldama* in Aramaic).

- The field received its name because **Judas's blood was spilled there** and because the potter's land **was purchased by the priest with "blood money"** Judas returned to them.

THE SOURCE OF HIS WISDOM

The wisdom Peter displayed was not of himself. It was a result of his **reliance on God's Word**, quoting two separate Psalms (69:25; 109:8).

- David likely penned these words when he was betrayed by Doeg (1 Samuel 21–22). The HS brought this to mind, and Peter understood that **Judas's position was to be filled by another.**

FULFILLING THE WILL OF GOD

The disciples sought to fill Judas's position because **they believed it was God's desire and not their own.**

- **Whose desire do we seek to fulfill** in this life? We cannot have two masters—if we seek to fulfill our own desires, we will end up resenting God when His desires differ from ours.

QUALIFICATIONS

Before recommending candidates, Peter set the qualifications for the person who would replace Judas.

- They must have **been with them from the beginning**—from the time of Jesus' baptism through His earthly ministry—and **witnessed His resurrection** before His ascension.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (ACTS 1:23–26)

“SHOW WHICH OF THESE TWO YOU HAVE CHOSEN”

The prayer in v. 24 was not the beginning of them praying. It was **a continuation of the prayer that united them** in v. 14.

- The most important qualification was that they were **chosen by Jesus just as the original 12 were.** They proposed two names but left it up to the Lord to decide.

JUDAS'S REPLACEMENT

The two choices proposed were Joseph and Matthias. The group prayed, **“You, Lord, know everyone's hearts.”** They wanted the Lord to decide, since He sees the condition of the heart and **they would decide based on what is seen.**

- They cast lots, the lot fell to Matthias, and he was added to the 11.

SEEKING GOD'S WILL

Seventy times in the OT and seven times in the NT we see the practice of casting lots, where marked sticks, stones, or something like dice were thrown to **determine the Lord's will in certain situations.** Casting lots was also used as a form of gambling, like when the Roman soldiers cast lots for Jesus' garments (Matthew 27:35).

SHOULD WE CAST LOTS?

These passages are not condoning throwing dice or drawing straws to determine God's will. The disciples used the traditional methods they had at the time **to seek God's perfect will in all decisions.**

- We have **God's Word**, the **Holy Spirit's help**, and the advice of **godly counsel** to help us.

DAY OF PENTECOST (ACTS 2:1–4)

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost was a Jewish Festival held 50 days after Passover, celebrating the firstfruits of the wheat harvest. In the OT, Pentecost was when Israel received the law, but when this day came, the disciples received the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

- Ten days after Jesus ascended, the promised Holy Spirit came upon them.

“ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

The disciples were not unfamiliar with the person and work of the Holy Spirit, but this was a new work of the Spirit—a unique event that they had never experienced.

- A sound like that of a rushing wind filled the room, and they saw **“tongues... of fire that separated and rested on each of them.”**

“BEGAN TO SPEAK IN DIFFERENT TONGUES”

The fire that is reminiscent of God speaking to Moses in the desert (Exodus 3:2) is now resting on each person, speaking through them.

- As they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak **genuine languages** they were never taught and **not the “tongues” Paul addressed in Corinth** (1 Corinthians 14).

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (ACTS 2:5–13)

“A CROWD CAME TOGETHER”

There was a multitude of people from different nations gathered in Jerusalem because of the Passover and the Feast of Pentecost.

- Everyone gathered around because of the sound, and **each person heard their native tongue** being spoken.

“THEY WERE ALL ASTOUNDED AND PERPLEXED”

When they heard the **“magnificent acts of God” that were being proclaimed to them**, some were moved, asking, **“What does this mean?”** while others dismissed them, claiming the disciples were **“drunk on new wine.”**

- **What is our response? Do we seek to know God more, or are we quick to dismiss Him?**

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were not full of wine making them intoxicated—they were **full of the Spirit making them effective.**

- This was a miraculous work of the Spirit, where the gospel was communicated in a way and time that allowed it to be **taken to the areas the multitudes had originally come from.**

THE GIFTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO THE CHURCH

God gives gifts as he sees fit, and not every gifting is the same. We should seek the gifts God wants to give us to use for His glory and never elevate one above the other.

- **Are you using the native tongue that you have been given to communicate the gospel to those in your community?**

LIVING WITH INTENTIONALITY

- We may fail to see the purpose in the hard and confusing parts of life, but **everything God does is on purpose and for a purpose.**
- If God is intentional and we are made in His image, then **we should also live life with intentionality.**
- **Are we living on purpose with a purpose?**

SEEKING THE WILL OF GOD

- Are we **utilizing the tools God has given us** to know His will?
- Are we **reading His Word daily?** We cannot say that we do not hear God speak when we never read what He has spoken.
- Do we **listen to the counsel of the Holy Spirit in us and others?**

SEEKING THE GIFTS OF GOD

- Do we see the true gift in these passages is **being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
- Instead of seeking a particular gift, maybe we should **seek the gifting that God desires for us.**
- **Whom do we seek to bring glory to?** Ourselves or the gift-giver?