

## **ACTS 1:15-26**

### **THE CHOOSING OF MATTHIAS: RIGHT OR WRONG?**

Through the leadership of Peter, Matthias is appointed to take the place of Judas. Some Bible teachers and commentators feel that this was a terrible mistake, that they should have waited instead for Paul. The purpose of this handout is to defend this choice and to show how dangerous it is to say it was a mistake.

#### **Five Reasons Why The Disciples Were Right In Choosing A 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle:**

1. Their motivation was not wrong: Judas's defection and not his death had created a vacancy. When James, the brother of John is martyred a few years later (Acts 12:2), they do not replace him.
  
2. They actually believed the Lord was choosing, not themselves, Acts 1:2; 1:24.  
  
    "chosen" (both verses) = Aorist, Middle Indicative from eklego / εκλεγω
  
3. Luke, writing under inspiration, twice calls them the twelve (Acts 2:14 & 6:2): was Luke expressing Divine Viewpoint or Human Viewpoint? If Matthias was the wrong choice, then the Holy Spirit adapted to human error (impossible).
  
4. Moreover, Paul himself writing under inspiration calls them the twelve, 1 Corinthians 15:5.
  
5. Paul never repudiated their choice: he maintains his apostleship is unique and not to be identified with that of the twelve, 1 Corinthians 15:7-10; Galatians 1:1, 11-17; 2:8.