

**SERMON NOTES: MAY 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 22: 24-30, Acts 1: 12-26**

**Replacing Judas... Now 120 in total, the Early Church faced its first test-how to handle the “JUDAS ISSUE”, replacing the one who sold Jesus out. Jesus didn’t ask for a replacement. Was this their idea? Did they blame Judas to take the pressure off themselves? They’d all betrayed him. If you have never made a mistake, you have never made anything at all.**

**The Symbolic Value...getting a 12<sup>th</sup> Disciple had symbolic value. Jesus said that one day they’d Judge the 12 tribes of Israel. Eleven left them one short. There is no hint of friction, or a power grab for leadership. They had only one leader: Jesus. They were FOLLOWERS. They had to let go of their agendas, be open to God rather than to react to situations. Would they come together or split apart?**

**No Passing the Buck...they put themselves at God’s disposal. We shouldn’t ask God to do things that he expects us to do. They couldn’t pass the buck or ask others to step up. There are things God wants to do through us and maybe only through us.**

**God Qualifies the Called...after some discussion, Peter describes the qualifications of filling the position:**

**Qualifications of Apostle: a Disciple who’d been present since Jesus’ baptism, who were eyewitnesses to the faith.**

**There were no superstars in the room. God wasn’t looking at resumes. He doesn’t call the qualified; he qualifies the called.**

**BEYOND THE ELECTION RESULTS... two names are finally presented: Justus and Matthias, both of whom were equally faithful yet both equally overwhelmed. There is no way to tell if one person is better suited than another. No Disciple had been totally loyal to Jesus. Matthias gets the vote, but we never hear from Justus or Matthias again. Paul eventually became the one who carried Judas’ mantle. Luke wasn’t interested in the election results. They all had their roles. This was CRUNCH TIME. Christianity could have gone in different directions. It might have split into camps, steadily lost volunteers, or self-destructed. Through these 120 people, God started a movement that changed history. How? They stopped thinking small and living in fear.**