

# Sermon Outline

## THE FIRST DISCIPLES' FIRST PRAYER | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Acts 1:15-26 (p.1549)

Great Prayers in the Bible ...		
23/11	David's prayer (after a cancelled building project)	2 Sam 7:1-29
30/11	Solomon's prayer (at the opening of the Temple)	2 Chr 6:12-42
7/12	Daniel's prayer (after the Temple has been destroyed)	Dan 9:1-19
14/12	Ezra's prayer (after the Temple has been rebuilt)	Ezra 9:1-15
21/12	Our Lord's kingdom-building prayer	Mt 6:9-13
28/12	Simeon's prayer	Lk 2:22-35
4/1	Jesus' prayer for us	Jn 17
11/1	The Pharisees' prayer and the tax collector's prayer	Lk 18:9-14
18/1	The first disciples' first prayer	Acts 1:15-26
25/1	The first disciples' second prayer	Acts 4:1-31

Acts 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

Mt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 **Therefore** go and **make disciples of all nations ...**"

### 1. The problem (vv15-20)

"The Scripture had to be fulfilled ..."

Lk 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

Ps 69:25 May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents.

Ps 109:8 May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.

### 2. The solution (vv21-26)

2 selection criteria for Judas' replacement:

i. he must have been with them all along (vv21-23)

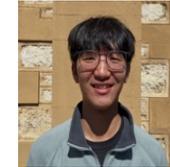
ii. he must have the right heart (which only God knows) (vv24-25)

Mt 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

### 3. So what, for us

i. "Scripture had to be fulfilled ..."

ii. "May another take his place of leadership ..."



iii. "Show us which of these two you have chosen ..."

Q1. Is coin-tossing a valid way to discern God's will?

Q2. Does this "great prayer" leave you feeling fatalistic?

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*Lord, you know everyone's heart  
Show us the good works you've prepared in advance for us to do  
Strengthen us to be witnesses to Christ and His resurrection wherever you put us in your world, to the ends of the earth.  
Amen.*