



————— ∞ *Week Two* ∞ —————

Original Message Date: May 03, 2020

Message Title: The Prime Directive

This weeks primary Biblical text: Acts 1:12-26

This weeks memory challenge: Acts 1:14a *“They all joined together constantly in prayer...”*

Reading for next week: Acts 2:1-13, Romans 5:1-5, Romans 15:12-13, Ephesians 1:13-14, Titus 3:4-7

————— ∞ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ∞ —————

Read John 17:20-23

- In Jesus prayer, what are the three core ‘disciple of Christ’ values Pastor Ethan identified?
- In verse 22, what is the purpose of Jesus giving His glory to His followers?
- Why do you think the unity of Jesus disciples is so important to God, and so important to God’s work in the world?

Re-read (from last week) Acts 1:1-11

- What is the “Prime Directive” Jesus gives to His Disciples?

Read Acts 1:12-14. Here Luke identifies the remaining 11 apostles, who with Matthias would become the 12 founding apostles of the church.

- What is the most important difference between the leadership role of the apostles and Israel’s Old Covenant leadership structure?
- What role will the Old Covenant leadership structure play in the dawning new age of the church?

Read Acts 1:14. The NASB (and other texts) translates the key phrase “*These all with one mind/purpose were continually devoting themselves to prayer.*”

- Why does Luke emphasize the unity of the disciples- specifically in prayer- at this crucial moment? Why was it so important that the disciples were continually praying in this spirit of unity of purpose?
- How important is prayer to us today, as a church family? What can we learn from these early disciples about the value and focus we place upon church-wide prayer?

Read Acts 1:15-19

- Here Luke chose to record Peter’s speech regarding Judas, specifically that Judas’ actions were a fulfillment of scripture, and how Judas faced the consequences of his actions. Suppose a person asked you “Why did God punish Judas if what he did was necessary for God’s plan?” How would you answer them?
- In this message, Pastor Ethan pointed out the differing accounts of Judas’ death between Matthew and Acts. Suppose your same friend asked you why scripture is historically accurate when we have differences in the story such as we see here? How would you answer?

Read Acts 1:20-22

- Why was it so important that the new apostle be a witness of everything Christ had done, from the beginning of His ministry through His resurrection and Ascension?
- What was the unique role of the apostles that has never been repeated since the days recording in the book of Acts?

Read Acts 1:23-26

- How are we to appropriately interpret the apostle’s actions in choosing Matthias as the new apostle? Should what they did be considered a ‘prescriptive’ practice for us today when we are seeking God’s will? If no, then why not?

What's your biggest takeaway from today's message?

What's your biggest question from today's message?