

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday of Easter – June 1, 2025

*“And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias,
and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”*

- Acts 1:26 -

As the disciples worked together to continue the ministry Jesus had given them to do, they had to figure out what to do about the spot left open by Judas. There had been twelve disciples and twelve was an important number for the people. They wanted to continue their work with twelve, so they had to replace the one who had betrayed Jesus.

After some discussion they decided that the best way to choose the new apostle was to cast lots. The winner was Matthias. I wonder what he thought when he got the news. Was he excited about the honor of being chosen by God in this way? Was he fearful of what might be in store for the followers of Jesus? Was he confused about why there would still be followers of Jesus when Jesus had been crucified? Was he eager to get to work in sharing the story of what Jesus had done?

The fact is we have no idea what Matthias thought. This most famous lottery winner in the Bible is never mentioned again. We don't hear one single word about him after this. It's impossible to really know what that means, but it is worth noting that Matthias is chosen by God, and we don't hear one word about what he thinks about that.

When God chooses people, he doesn't wait around wondering if we agree with his choice. He doesn't ask our permission to be chosen. He doesn't see if it fits into our plans. God chose you in your baptism and he has no plans to let you go. He has no plans to change his mind about you. He picked you out to receive his gifts.

This is even better than winning the lottery. The riches God has in store for you will never run out. They will never lose value. They will not lead you into all kinds of bad decisions. The riches God has in store for you are forgiveness, mercy, everlasting life. These are the greatest treasures imaginable. And God didn't ask your permission before giving them to you. He has just handed them over, and now they are yours forever.