

# Expectantly

## Acts 1:12-26

Holding out for the best, instead of settling for the good.

### 1. We are better together. (1:12-16a)

- a. Their diversity was notable, their leadership clear, their unity was based upon their “devotion” to Christ.

- This relatively small gathering of believers would unify together “with one mind.”

“They stuck to praying.” A. T. Robertson

- Prayer was their primary work, and it unified them in purpose and calling as they awaited for the next chapter in the building of the church.

- b. They functioned as a true family.

### 2. One member of their family disregarded the truth and ultimately lost everything. (1:16b-19)

- a. Judas experienced and participated fully in the life and ministry of Christ.

- He was chosen by Christ, and committed himself to follow him.
  - He not only experienced the miracles and teachings of Christ, he probably participated in them.
  - No one suspected him.

- b. Tragically, Judas never fully surrendered his life to Christ.

- He allowed Satan to have space (topos) in his life (Eph 4:27, John 8:44, 13:27), giving room for his self-destruction (Matthew 26:15, 27:3, 27:9).
  - He gambled against the promises of Christ. (Matt 6:24, John 12:6)

- It would have been better for him not to have been born. (Mark 14:21, John 17:12)
- c. When some fall away, we love them, we pray for them, we remember them, we grieve their story, but we also keep moving forward expectantly.

### 3. God was preparing them for something more. (1:20-26)

"When God is going to do some great thing, He moves the hearts of people to pray" Henry Ironside.

"They are about to undergo a spiritual transformation; to pass, so to speak, from the chrysalis to the winged stage. They are on the eve of the great illumination promised by Jesus before His death. The Spirit of Truth is about to come and lead them into all Christian truth." A.B. Bruce, *The Training of the Twelve*.

- a. They assumed the “more” was the restoration of the Kingdom of God and that 12 disciples were essential to that plan. They did not maintain this assumption after James was martyred.
- b. They were blessed with a plurality of leaders.
- c. In quoting scripture, Peter understood that God’s word is a result of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is tremendously valuable. God’s word would be given tremendous priority in the church.