

Rise Up! Rise Up and Lead!

April 10, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms:

"May his place be deserted;

let there be no one to dwell in it,'

and, "May another take his place of leadership.'

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. **Acts 1:12-26, NIV**

²¹ Therefore it is **necessary** to choose... v. 21a

Leadership is not a _____ in the church.

...one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become **a witness with us of his resurrection.**"
v. 21b-22

A leader must be selected _____, on the basis of _____.

²⁴ Then they **prayed**, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two **you have chosen** ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry... v. 24-25a

A leader must also be selected _____, seeking the Lord's _____ for the position.

²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's **heart**... ²⁵ to take over this **apostolic ministry**... v. 24a, 25a

Ultimately, a leader is selected on the basis of his _____.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the **power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 3:10-11, NIV**

Leaders _____ by _____ themselves in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the **power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death. **Philippians 3:10, NIV**

Bottom line: Leaders last by losing themselves in Christ.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Growth Group Learning Activity for 4/10 - 4/16

Quick Review: Looking back to Sunday, is there something about the message that caught your attention or made you think differently about God or his Word?

My Story

When Jesus went back to heaven the disciples were put in a situation where they needed to step up and lead.

When was a time in your life when circumstances changed and you were put in a situation where you were challenged to lead?

Jesus prepared his disciples to lead. He walked with them and talked with them. He mentored them.

Is there someone in your life that you consider a spiritual mentor? Who is it and how did they prepare you to lead?

Is there a person you are/could be preparing to lead for the future? Who is it? How are you preparing them to lead?

Digging Deeper

1. This weekend we heard about leadership and how Christians are put in positions to rise up and lead in their lives. **Read Nehemiah 1:1-7.**

What are some leadership qualities Nehemiah displays in these verses?

What single quality do you think is most important in a leader? Why?

2. Read **Nehemiah 2:1-7**

Why would Nehemiah be afraid to be sad in the presence of the king and bring a request to him?

What is the role of fear and taking risks when you are a leader?

3. Read **Nehemiah 4:9**

Sometimes in life we think we have to trust in God or do work ourselves. Good leaders know they need to do both. What are areas of your life where you need to lead by trusting *and* doing?

4. Read **Nehemiah 6:11-16.**

Remember that you will face adversity as a leader. But finally, leaders get things done.

Agree or disagree. The final judge of a leader is whether they get things done or not.

Take it Home

In what area do you see yourself developing your leadership skills at CrossWalk?

What is your next step in doing it?

Prayer Requests