**Choosing Kingdom Leaders**

***15****In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,****16****“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.****17****For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”****18****(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26930d)*] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.****19****And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)****20****“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,*

“‘May his camp become desolate,
     and let there be no one to dwell in it’.

 And “‘Let another take his office.’

***21****So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,****22****beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”****23****And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.****24****And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen****25****to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”****26****And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

 The Kingdom of God receives its leaders by revelation from the Lord and does not establish them by its own human ability. Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we rejoice today in our youth present here. We pray that the Lord blesses our youth and prepares them to dedicate themselves to the work of His Kingdom. Today’s topic has a close connection with the life of the church everywhere. First, however, we need to define God’s Kingdom as the presence and influence of Christ’s church, which is only real because of the Holy Spirit. When we speak about The Kingdom, we are talking about Jesus’ church and not about buildings or ministry organizations. We are speaking about His gathered people as His Body. Therefore, today we are going to talk about how to choose leaders for the great work of God’s Kingdom. Again, The Kingdom of God receives its leaders by revelation from the Lord, and not by establishing them by its own human ability. Let’s see how this works…

 The most important condition for the work of the Kingdom of God is the calling of the heart from God. In other words, whatever is a work for the church which spread’s Jesus’ salvation, which must be done by someone with a calling[[1]](#footnote-1). The Apostle Peter felt the need to explain the reason Judas had to be put aside and why someone had to take his place. To have twelve Apostles come out of the twelve tribes of Israel was a sign that God was creating a new people in the manifestation of the church of Jesus. Therefore, they needed someone to fill in the missing spot that had firsthand experiences with Jesus. They needed someone that had spent time with church leadership. And so, they brought two people and prayed before casting lots.

 There are situations in which you really need to pray before deciding anything. For example, there are churches that declare that their people must fast for a few days before they go through with selecting a leader. Or there are trips that the Lord does not want you to go on. How are you going to know which those are if you do not pray as to whether you should or should not go?

 Choosing leaders for the Kingdom is even more important. When we choose leaders for any kind of ministry, let us ask ourselves just how much we pray before we make suggestions of names. Just how often to we go to God for Him to give a sign as to which candidate He prefers. This is where a significant difference exists between the world and the Kingdom of God. We belong to the Kingdom of God – that means that our laws by which we operate are different than the world’s laws. The world chooses its leaders only by its own abilities. We, however, need to first receive from God the revelation about whom should be in what role or position. The church is called to choose its leaders by prayer first.

 Today, if you, regardless of age, have a call to serve in a church ministry, do not delay your answer to God, but rather prepare yourself to do that work. Pray, seek a sign, and be ready to serve. Again, the most important condition for the work of the Kingdom of God is the calling of the heart from God. The Kingdom of God receives its leaders by revelation from the Lord and does not establish them by its own human ability. The Lord bless you all. Amen.

1. Please note that a calling does not have to be to full-time ministry – it just has to be a strong gift that God has given for the person to use for the growth of God’s people, and thus the Kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)