

Matthias

“The Disciples”



Matthias is shown with the Bible and the double bladed battle axe. It is said he was beheaded with a double bladed axe for his missionary zeal.

Matthias!!! He wasn't one of the original twelve. What is his claim to fame? According to books that I have read, and resources I have checked, Matthias was just a second-hand chance apostle!!! At least that is what it appears at first glance. He was chosen to replace Judas. Do we want to be like Judas or like Matthias? Oh, don't think for a minute that we are not sometimes very much like Judas! We do our fair share of sinning. But, through AMAZING GRACE, we are free to work, study, and spread the word of God.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15

We don't need to be spoken to by Christ personally and called from our job as the disciples were, but we are summoned by Him to witness for Him. The choice is ours. Matthias wasn't chosen like the other disciples. Judas had betrayed Christ and hanged himself after he realized his wrong. There were only eleven apostles to carry out the work. After Christ had ascended into Heaven, the eleven gathered in a room along with other people to discuss what they were going to do. According to Acts 1:12-26 the people gathered were men and women, including the mother of Christ and his brethren. Peter spoke up and said they needed to have someone to replace Judas for his position. But, there were certain requirements. The one to be chosen had to have accompanied the disciples and Christ from the baptism of John until the day when Christ was taken away from them, and it had to be someone who had witnessed His resurrection. The crowd proposed two names and they cast lots. Matthias was the one chosen. People are chosen in many ways. God does not cast lots to see which one of us is chosen. We are all chosen. The decision to follow is ours. The door is always open.

“If God called us to a task, He will then qualify us for the job.”

- Jack Hyles

Many years ago, a minister came to our church for a series of sermons. Every night he told us to memorize II Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* and I Thessalonians 5:22. *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”* He said it so many times that over the many years that have followed I have never forgotten those verses. I don't remember his name or anything else he said. I don't even know how old I was, but he certainly made an impression on me with those verses which I memorized then and still know by heart today, many years later. Those verses were a call to me then to do my best. They aren't verses that I have heard much in sermons over the years. But they spoke to me at that time in my young life.

Matthias opened the door and we can too. Although I know many times that I have sinned and need to rely on God's amazing grace, I know that He

is always at the door waiting for me. Matthias wasn't one of the original disciples, but he studied and was certainly a workman that had no shame just because he wasn't one of the originals. He did the work of his Lord, and he preached the word of truth throughout the rest of his life.

We don't have to be in the lime light all the time, but we do need to study and show God's love every day. We know that many people were working after Christ's death to spread His word, or we wouldn't know of it today. Those first twelve couldn't do it all alone. They needed many people working to spread the message to all parts of the earth. Today, we are still those people. We may not be ministers in the ordained sense, but we all have gifts that were given to us free of charge. It would be so easy if we could just buy them, and then not feel so guilty if we didn't use them. But when something as wonderful as eternal life is given to us, we feel a sense of obligation. And that obligation is to make sure that we work to tell others of the wonderful gifts we have been given.

There is a wonderful picture by William Holman Hunt that shows Christ knocking at a door. Many people see that it is a beautiful picture, but they don't stop to see that there is no knob or latch on the door. It must be opened from inside. That is how we are called. He is there knocking at our door, but He cannot come and make His home with us until we open the door.

We can be called in many ways. Matthias wasn't called by Christ as one of the original twelve, but he was called and so are we. Often it is by someone speaking to us. Sometimes it is through prayer. Then we make the choice to either ignore the call or answer. We can come up with some pretty weak excuses. But the call is always there. The door can only be opened by us.



"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him."

John 14:23

Prayer: Heavenly Father. Thank You for Your amazing grace. May we everyday think of Christmas and Easter as times that You gave everything so that we may have eternal life. As we go through this day and each day that You have given to us, may we work to seek Your will for our lives, and be thankful for Your concern for each one of us. As the song says "Help us be like You, Lord." Amen

1. How are we often like Judas?
2. Do we mind being like Matthias? Do we mind being among those that may not always be at the front of the line?
3. How can we follow in the steps of Matthias?
4. How can we study to show our faith to others?
5. What gifts do we have to offer?

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When we show kindness to those who can repay us, it's called *networking*. When we show kindness with no thought of repayment, it's called *love*.

Dave Willis