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13 And when they were come in / when they returned to Jerusalem after Jesus ascended to heaven,

they went to the upper room,

where stayed... Peter, and John, and James,

and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas,

Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,

and Simon Zelotes, and Jude the younger brother of James / and for 10 days... in the Temple and in the upper room, the gospel writers tell us... *They continued in praising God.*

Luke writes...

14 They all continued with ‘one accord’ / they all were with one mind = the mind of Christ, the Messiah,

they continued... in prayer and supplication, with the women,

and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brethren / it is interesting, some of the traditions... especially the ones that make void the word of God... those who don't read the Bible, they want to deny that Jesus had brothers and sister; while they make a big deal about Mary's virginity. History tells us they like virgins, a lot; but enough... everyone was there; and they are all praying together... including the mother of Jesus and His half-brothers and sisters, too.

15 And in those days / in those 10 days... it's interesting, we know in scripture the number: 10... often represents the number of human responsibility; and here, impulsive Peter... along with all the disciples -- those doing the math... still had much to learn.

Sometime in those 10 days...

Peter stood up among the disciples... Luke tells us:

the number of names together in the upper room... were about a hundred and twenty (120). And now, Peter is going to get up... and it's as if the fisherman had too many days to sit around thinking, reflecting on all that happened. Peter is going to start saying stuff, so we get to hear what is really on his mind. Perhaps Peter could have remembered the night Jesus was betrayed when he argued with the Lord, and Jesus reminded them: *the servant is not greater than the lord; the apostles not greater than the one who sent them.*

Remember: Jesus left them 10 days. He must have known them very well! 10 days between His leaving and... the coming Promise of His Father, the other Paraclete who would be sent. We know, in the presence of the Lord is great joy! But in His absence... well, that's another story. Here is the only conversation memorialized from that upper room.

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Peter stood up in the midst... and said,

16 Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David foretold concerning... Judas / hmm?! Judas is on his mind. Peter is probably still a little pissed-off...

concerning Judas,

which was guide to them that took Jesus / and can't you see everybody nodding their heads? Okay Peter! Uh-hah...

17 For he was numbered among us,

and had obtained part of this ministry / umm-huh! We know Peter! Sort of 1 plus 1; not difficult. Hmm? Is this sermon going somewhere?

18 Now this...

***this one* ... purchased a field with the price of his iniquity;**

and falling headlong,

he burst asunder... in the midst...,

and his bowels... gushed out! / hmm?! Can't you see them scratching their heads? Are we supposed to say AMEN here, or something?! to the dead fool?

19 And *this fact*... was known to all dwelling in Jerusalem;

so that in their tongue / the Greek: *dialektos*, in their own language, used 6 times in the book of Acts; **first used here**... and remember the Spirit had NOT arrived,

that field is called: Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood / okay! Good point! It's actually an excellent point. And profound, when considering its implications: Jesus' life and death... purchased the Potter's Field... really, the junkyard that we first learn about in Jeremiah 18, *where all the broken vessels*, all the rejects of the Potter... were discarded and tossed.

Peter continues...

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms,

Let his habitation be desolate,

and let no man dwell therein: / okay! I agree. Stop there because JESUS said, *I will build MY church* – it belongs to Him. But only a man whose name is Peter... would dare to say the next statement!

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and his bishoprick let another take / huh? His bi-sha... what? The word means: *overseer*, manager; Judas oversaw the money – it's NO hocus pocus. So, Peter put together 2 OT verses Psalm 69 and Psalm 109... **but remember the Spirit had not come**. Hey! Time to do some wool-gathering!

Now after that brilliant King James' comment, notice how Peter's faulty reasoning was busy at work...born in legalism and impatience! Peter says,

²¹ Therefore of these men who accompanied us...

all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

²² Beginning from the baptism of John, to that same day that He was 'taken up' from us / analambano; received from us into the heavens,

one must become... a witness with us of His resurrection / okay. Why? Jesus already said to them, *If they're not against us; they are for us.*

²³ And they appointed two / then they proposed two men:

Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus,

and Matthias / another guy, undoubtedly honorable and noble men! Yet, in all of the gospels... we never hear of Jesus mentioning either of them once.

²⁴ And they prayed, and said,

Lord, You know the hearts of all / and He does! the Lord God said, *All souls are Mine!*

show which of these two You chose,

²⁵ to occupy this ministry and apostleship,

from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.

²⁶ And... in the finest Viva Las Vegas style,

they gave lots to them; and the lot fell to Matthias / like the California Lottery, they drew lots: and lucky Matthias! Many make a big deal about these verses; not necessary, they were told to wait.

and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

And... we never heard from him since! I wonder if that was about the 8th or 9th day... and impulsive Peter was just getting a little tired of waiting; you know... tarrying in Jerusalem... (or wherever we might be) ... that God's power... for His purposes... in His people... should be accomplished.