

# Acts 1:12-26 Better by the Dozen

*Focus: on the church's readiness for mission by prayerful obedience and submission to the Scriptures*

## Resource:

Here is a link to a helpful sermon manuscript by John Piper on our text:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/what-judas-death-teaches-us-about-the-spirit>



Portrait of St. Mathias. Strong resemblance to Greg, don't you think?

## Discussion:

- Share stories about what you most hate to wait for. Follow up with a discussion of how you think our "instant gratification culture" negatively affects our spiritual lives, especially when we need to wait on God.
- Read 1.12-20. What do we learn about God and Judas from this section? How does the "needfulness" of Judas betrayal strike you? How does Peter *intend* for that to affect the disciples? How can you let it have that faith-building effect on you? How does this connect to verses like Rom. 8.28?
- Read 1.21-26. Why do you think choosing a 12th apostle to replace Judas mattered so much? (verses to consider: Luke 22: 28-30; Rev. 21.14. What can we learn from their determination to do this and the way they went about it?
- How does their trust in God and surface in ways that challenge you to follow their example? same concerning their obedience and their view of Scripture?
- Read Matt. 16.22-23 and 26.69-75 and compare Peter then to Peter in this passage. What do you think made such an impact on him? (consider what has been happening the previous 40 days, especially John 20.15-19) How does the truth of Jesus' resurrection affect you?
- What is most encouraging/challenging to you from this snapshot of this earliest gathering of disciples? How might God want you to walk that out?