

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 12 May 2024

HOW GOD USES OUR DISTINCTNESS

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Risen Lord, draw us to you. Open our minds and hearts that we may understand the testimony of Scripture that you have indeed risen from the dead; you live and reign, now and forever, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

**Q 1 Have you ever felt God calling you into a certain area of ministry?
How do you think you knew it was something divine?**

Worship Suggestions 🎤

All I am and all I have is yours 🎵

Just as I am without one plea 🎵

Jesus take me as I am 🎵

Word: Psalm 1

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Word: John 17.6-19 Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Acts: 1.15-26

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.

COMMENTARY Why was it important that there be 12 apostles rather than 11?

The number 12 symbolically represents the people of God. The 12 apostles were leaders of the “nation” God was forming from those who had faith in Jesus. What were the essential qualities of an apostle? He had to have been a disciple of Jesus throughout his ministry - from the beginning to the end; verses 21-22.

Two men matched that description, so the group prayed and cast lots to see which man should be numbered with the apostles and become an appointed witness of Jesus’ resurrection.

Q 2 Today’s reading in Acts deals with who should replace Judas as one of the disciples and deals with how we are all different but we all have something to offer. What do you think you could use more effectively?

Q 3 Have a look at your fingerprints. Isn’t it incredible that out of 7 billion of us on the planet not one of us have the same fingerprints. What does this tell you about God?

Q 4 What roles have you fulfilled in your life? How did you witness for God in these roles?

Works: How do we recognise potential in others?

How do we recognise potential in ourselves?

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Risen Lord, draw us to you. Dry our tears, call us by name, and lead us to heaven where we may always cling to you; you live and reign, now and forever, Amen.

Shalom

Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)