LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	02 June 2024	Acts 1	Commissioned
2)	09 & 16 June	Acts 2a	Empowered
3)	09 & 16 June	Acts 2b	United
4)	23 June	Acts 3	Placed
5)	30 June & 07 July	Acts 4a	Emboldened
6)	30 June & 07 July	Acts 4b	Accountable
7)	14 July	Acts 5	Worthy
8)	21 July	Acts 6-7	Serving
9)	28 July	Acts 8	Baptizing
10)	04 & 11 Aug	Acts 9a	Calling
11)	04 & 11 Aug	Acts 9b	Healing
12)	18 Aug	Acts 10-11	Including
13)	25 Aug	Acts 12	Praying
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INTRODUCTION

- As we move into the book of Acts we see the same types of healings as we see in the Gospels. The apostles and certain other disciples healed anyone & everyone of anything & everything, any time & every time, anywhere and everywhere they went.
- Throughout the book of Acts, Luke, the author, was meticulous with details. Classical scholar and historian, Colin Hemer, chronicled Luke's accuracy in the book of Acts with painstaking detail.
 - Hemer identified 84 facts just in the last 16 chapters of Acts, which have been confirmed by historical and archeological records. Luke also records 35 miracles in Acts. What is interesting of Luke's account is that all miraculous incidences are without embellishment, lending additional credibility to each of them.
 - If Luke was accurate with trivial details such as peculiar town names, the names of ships, and titles of officials for that time period, then it stands to reason he would also be just as meticulous in recording the miraculous accurately.
- Chapter 1. The Apostles witness the ascension of Jesus Christ and they select a
 replacement for Judas. Matthias becomes the next Apostle, and, as we will soon see in
 the weeks ahead, is also able to heal everyone of everything just like the other Apostles
 did, but only for a season

Passage	Comments
	Wait and Be Baptized With the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:1-5	 Jesus appeared to his disciples over 40 days, but we are given very little information what transpired in those appearances
1:6-11	You Shall Receive Power v8. What kind of power? To work miracles like Jesus or to acquire wealth and wisdom? Remember – the power comes from the Holy Spirit who resides "in the inner man" 2Cor 4:16 the inner man is renewed everyday Eph 4:23 be renewed in the spirit of your mind Col 3:10 The new man is renewed in knowledge according to Christ Cor 5:17 We are new creations in Christ, old things are passed away, all things are new Yes, the Apostles would be blessed with Power to heal everyone of everything – for a season, BUT THE REAL POWER OF GOD IS TO CHANGE LIVES FOREVER
1:12-14	Devoted to Prayer v14. What does it mean to be "with one mind"? They devoted themselves to prayer – What does this look like? Should we be devoted to prayer? Should prayer be our #1 priority? If not, what should have #1 priority? What did they pray for? Who did they pray for? Were they generic prayers or very specific prayers?
1:15-26	Judas Lost His Seat At The Table Did Peter and the rest jump ahead of God by choosing Matthias? Was Matthias God's choice or man's choice? Wasn't Paul God's preferred replacement for Judas? Whose name (Paul, Matthias, or Judas) will be the 12th foundation stone of the New Jerusalem's wall?

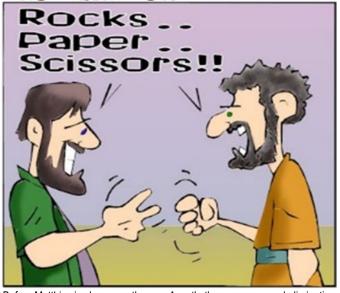
Decease	Comments
Passage	Comments
	 We will have to wait till we get to see the New Jerusalem's city foundations to know whose 12th name is on the wall. Recall that God changed up the names and orders of the 12 tribes of Israel several times throughout Scripture. For example, the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem may not contain the name of the tribe of Dan since Dan is missing from the list of tribes depicted in Rev 7:5-8.
A Few Words on Casting Lots, Rolling Dice, or Laying Down Fleeces Today. Should we expect to see a Miracle or Providence?	 The Urim and Thummim (or sacred lots) – were stones that were tossed to determine God's leading (similar to rolling dice). These elements had a very strong cultural image for the Jews since God often conveyed his will to the Jews through these elements BUT, they were reserved for the Levitical Priests Other elements used to "inquire of the Lord" (though how it was done, is never revealed to us) Ephod (Priestly garment made of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine gold-twined linen, worn between the tunic and the breastplate, and which held the Urim and Thummin). Ex 28:6-12; 1Sam 30:7-8 The Ark's Mercy Seat

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

 We may not be able to work the healings and miracles the Apostles and disciples were able to do during this season of miracles, but we do have the same Holy Spirit who enjoys empowering His obedient Saints to effectively live by and use God's word to change people's lives for all eternity

NEXT WEEK: Acts 2. The Apostles are empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness with many signs and wonders, "and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." This begs the question, is the Holy Spirit working the same today?

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Before Matthias is chosen as the new Apostle there were several elimination rounds using a new highly sophisticated selection process. Acts 1:12-26