

## Prayer Before Business | Acts 1:13

Robert gives the devotion from Acts 1:13 Prayer before business

- Timing of Christ's return is a secret known only to the Father. V1:7
- We are to be His witness to "end of the earth" – labor until He comes. V1:8
- V1:13 the "upper room" – a place of retreat for His followers after His ascension, unsure if this is the same place they gathered after His death and resurrection see Luke 24:<sup>34</sup> "And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them"
- It is fitting that they gather in an upper room. Syriac scholiast believes this is the same upper room that Jesus has the last supper with His disciples. Mark 14:15, Luke 22:12
- They spend time together waiting for the pouring of the Holy Spirit. In contrast, they disperse after His death and burial.
- Eleven disciples are named, other women and His brethren, and Mary the mother of Jesus (this is the last time her name is mentioned in the scripture). This is a large gathering – recalling some of the house churches in China.
- V1:14 – is this the *first* prayer meeting after His ascension?
- "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" God's people are praying people because:
  - They are facing trouble and dangers
  - They have great work ahead of them – to preach the risen Lord
  - They are waiting for the enabling power of Holy Spirit
- They petition earnestly and in unity, of the same mind & spirit.
- V15-26 Matthias is chosen to replace Judas – the first business. Yet this is done after v14 (earnest prayer)
- This is a large gathering of people – about 120 people. Imagine the difficulty to run such a large meeting.
- V15 "Peter stood up" Peter shows leadership. He makes a motion based on weight of the scripture (Psalms 69:25, Psalms 109:8)
- V23. "They propose two..." The people concurs with Peter. What could be the other outcomes?
- V24 "And they prayed..."
- V24 "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all" – Acknowledge our handicap only God is all wise. Only He knows the hearts of all.
- V24 "show which of these two You have chosen" Who does the choosing?