

MAY 13, 2018



# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS 1:15–17, 20A, 20C–26

PSALM 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20

1 JOHN 4:11–16

JOHN 17:11B–19

## REFLECTION

The First Reading this Sunday describes the choosing of Matthias to become the twelfth Apostle, in order to fill the vacancy left by Judas Iscariot. Interestingly, this is the only time we ever hear about Matthias in Scripture. But the reading tells us that whoever would take the place of Judas had to be a disciple from the beginning—someone who was present from John’s baptism of Jesus to the day of the Ascension. Imagine what it must have been like for Matthias. He was one of those nameless disciples of Christ, somebody who was with Jesus through his whole ministry but who was never part of that “inner circle” of Apostles.

Every time I hear this reading, I always wonder to myself: What was Matthias’ ambition in all of this? Was being an Apostle just something that all the disciples secretly hoped for? Let’s be honest, we almost always want to be part of the “inner circle.” Did Matthias want that? Was he ever resentful for not being chosen among the original Twelve? When I was in high school, I really wanted to be an actor. I kept trying out for musicals, but I could never make the cut. I kept trying to improve my acting and singing, but no matter how much I improved, I didn’t get in. So many times I came away from looking at the cast list with feelings of defeat and frustration and jealousy of the people who were chosen. But because I wanted this so badly and kept working toward this one goal, I eventually became a much better singer and musician than I ever expected. Even if it seemed like nobody would ever recognize me or choose me for anything, I was still growing and improving. And when I reached college, it paid off—I was elected (chosen!) to lead our university chorus by the end of my freshmen year.

Think about this: if Matthias had given up on the disciples, if he had gotten too frustrated with never being part of the inner circle and had left them, he would never have become an Apostle. There’s a famous saying: “Don’t put a period where God has put a comma.” Sometimes God works on a different schedule than we do, and it is important (though challenging) to learn to trust that.

## ACTION

Is there something you’ve wanted for a while that you feel like you might not achieve or get? Challenge yourself to view the process as what’s important. Try to find joy in the efforts themselves, and trust God to worry about the goal.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● What is a goal that you have put a lot of effort toward? Which do you care more about: the outcome or the process? Do you trust God to take care of the outcome?