

In Agreement Together

030603-1

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Today we are going to read from that exciting part of the Bible, **The Book of Acts**. We are going to turn to **chapter 1 and verse 14 -**

All of these with their minds in full agreement, devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer [waiting together] with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

What kind of a meeting was this? You see, following the ascension, the disciples had been told to go and to wait in Jerusalem, and that they were to receive power. They were going to have the ability, efficiency, and might when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They were going to be witnesses because of the work of the Holy Spirit – God, the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity. God the Holy Spirit was going to come upon them and they were going to be . . . **witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth. (verse 8).**

We are told that the disciples went back to Jerusalem from the hill called Olivet, where they had seen our Lord going up to Heaven, blessing them. From Jerusalem, that is about three quarters of a mile. They went into the city and went into the upper room where they stayed there indefinitely. Now who are they?

13 . . . Peter and John and James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas [son} of James. Notice it is not Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed our Lord and, very sadly, had gone out and had committed suicide. The place where that had happened, according to Scriptures, was foretold in **Psalm 69:25**. They were told to let another take his position [or overseership] and that place was called the **field of blood. (Matthew 27:8)**. So here they were, and they gathered together in full agreement.

When you meet with other Christians, do you see the most important thing as you gather to pray together steadfastly, is that you need to be in agreement? When the Lord Jesus is the only One that you want to be elevated, then there is that great point of agreement, but if you come with your feelings and reactions and the self life is very much to the fore, there will not be that agreement. Therefore, there will not be the steadfastness of prayer. Perhaps one of the reasons why there is so little real prayer together is because there isn't that common agreement that the Jesus Christ should get all the honor, and all the glory in and through our lives when we love and know Him personally.

It is interesting that this about the last mention of the mother of Jesus, Mary, that she was there. It also includes Jesus' brothers. Isn't that interesting? You know, of course, there was the relationship

of the mother of Jesus, Mary, with her husband Joseph, after the virgin had not only conceived by the Holy Spirit, but borne forth the Child, the Son of God, Jesus. It was after the birth of Jesus that Joseph took Mary as his lawful wife and, of course, children came. There were brothers and sisters. It was not as if they were all running around with Him in those days, but, having seen the resurrection, in other parts of the Bible we find those who were literally His half-brothers and who, in honor, called Him, *Lord*.

Now then, here we are. They are all gathered together. As they gathered together, something unusual happens. For we read -

22 From the baptism of John at the onset until the day He was taken up -that is the Lord Jesus — one of these men must join us and become a witness to testify of his resurrection. You see, there were only eleven and there should be twelve. So, they wanted to, in agreement with the Lord, find another person, but they didn't want to make that decision. They weren't going to say, "This man is good at this and she is good at that." No. They decided they were going to follow what God wanted. So, prayerfully, they asked the Lord for that decision concerning these persons who they had nominated.

24 And they prayed and said, You, Lord, Who know all hearts . . . He knows your heart; He knows my heart. . . **(their thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, purposes and endeavors,] indicate to us which one of these two You have chosen.** The two people

nominated were a man called Joseph (who was surnamed Justus) and the other called Matthias. So there was . . . **Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus** - that is a nice name - **and Matthias. (verse 23)**. The election came by the Spirit that it should be the last person, Matthias, so that they would be the twelve.

This is important to understand: if we are waiting on the Lord to do a work, we need to be in agreement with those around us. We need to take direction from the leading of the Spirit and then we will see the Spirit of the Lord work in our midst!

Oh, please, listen tomorrow, because we are going to see the next part of this wonderful story in **Acts chapter 2**. In the meantime, may your heart be in agreement with what the Lord wants to do through you as you give Him all honor and praise.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.