



Keep It Or Lose It

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Bulletin VCAT05

26 April 2023

“For it is written in the book of

Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take” (Acts 1:20).

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) 16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. 21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. 23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles” (Acts 1:15-26).

Throughout life, God gives us many opportunities, gifts and privileges as trusts to invest in His service. Even though “... the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29), yet God expects faithfulness, if we are to continue to retain those privileges. “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). If we fail to value and keep what God has given us, we run the risk of losing them, as evidenced in our text and the following scriptures:

- 1) Matthew 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.
- 2) Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away

even that which he hath.

- 3) Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
- 4) Lamentations 3:36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.
- 5) 1 Samuel 16:1 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.
- 6) Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
- 7) Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
- 8) The departure of John Mark from the missionary expedition, opened the door for Silas to become a companion of Paul (Acts 15:39-40).
- 9) Matthew 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation
- 10) Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, **Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.**
- 11) 1 Tim 4:16 **Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.**