**May 16, 2021 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

***Response***

1. The Acts of the Apostles, could be considered the first work of church **history**,
   1. a guide book to the ***future***.
   2. The story we find here fits the pattern of ***crisis*** and ***response***.
   3. The ***crisis*** we find is the vacancy Judas’ death leaves in the number of the twelve.
   4. Their ***response***, Matthias is elected to fill the empty place,
   5. The community ***responds***, with two qualified candidates willing to serve.
2. Faithful response to a crisis involves need for ***workers*** to step forward
   1. Exercise ***trust*** in the God
   2. Matthias and Justus ***step*** ***forward*** at this moment,
   3. They are not mentioned ***previously*** and they are not mentioned ever again.
   4. Thank God for their ***willingness***!
3. The Church needs additional forms of ministry, ***workers***.
   1. Do we dare to ask for such ***help***?
   2. Do we dare ***believe*** God intends to provide it?
   3. What ***spiritual*** battles are confronting you?
   4. Are there other ***spiritual*** issues holding you back from being a part of the church?
4. There are places for us to ***serve***.
   1. Far greater are the forces aligned with God in our ***defense***.
   2. ***Trust*** and ***obey***.
   3. For every ***Crisis***, God has a plan to see us through

**Scripture:**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 NRSV (15)In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, (16)"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- (17)for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." … (21)So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (22)beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." (23)So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. (24)Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen (25)to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." (26)And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.