

BCY(P)NHO: Joseph Barsabas Justus (A Life of Second Place)

Preview

(picture) Dad's rings (18 seasons—10 state championships, 5 runners-up, 2 national titles)

(picture) TMTA Regional Math Contest

(picture) [Wikipedia: McKayla Rose Maroney . . . is an American . . . gymnast. . . She was a member of the gold medal-winning U.S. women's gymnastics team at the 2012 Summer Olympics and was the 2012 Olympic vault silver medalist. . . Maroney is also known for her "not impressed" face, which became an internet meme during the 2012 Olympics.](#)

Coming in second place can be painful. There is a story about this in [Acts 1](#).

Past (Acts 1:1-11)

Prologue ([Acts 1:1-3](#))

The Holy Spirit Promised ([Acts 1:4-8](#))

Jesus Ascends to Heaven ([Acts 1:9-11](#))

Passage ("What does Acts 1:12-26 mean?")

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. **13** And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying [count them]: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son of Alphaeus* and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son of James*. **14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, **16** "Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; **17** for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: '*Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it; and, 'Let another take his office.*' [Peter's theological basis for replacing Judas Iscariot.]

21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us [about three years], **22** beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness [Greek is *martys*] with us of His resurrection."

[Apostles had one job: Be a **witness** of Jesus Christ's resurrection. There are no apostles now: Coffman: There was never . . . a witness becoming a successor to a witness.]

23 And they proposed [or, nominated, stood up] **two: Joseph** ["let him add"] **called Barsabas** ["son of Sabas" (generosity)], **who was surnamed Justus** ["just"], **and Matthias** ["gift of God"]. **24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts** [Greek is *kardiognostes*, meaning, 'knower of the hearts'] **of all, show** [an imperative—strong language when talking to God] **which of these two You have chosen** **25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.**" [They are not asking to change God's will, but to **know** God's will. Ray Pritchard: The choice between Joseph and Matthias is the choice between two good men. There was no obvious reason to favor one over the other. It's easy to make a decision when one option is clearly better than the other.] **26 And they cast their lots** [Casting lots was used often in the Bible to decide something that was hard to discern], **and the lot fell** [see [Proverbs 16:33](#)] **on Matthias. And he** [Matthias] **was numbered** [assigned a place] **with the eleven apostles.**

Matthias **was** picked. How would you feel if you were Matthias?

Joseph Barsabas Justus **was not** picked. How would you feel if you were Joseph Barsabas Justus?

Winston Salem Church of Christ: Don't ever get drunk on the culture's need to measure success by selection. . . . Selection is not always a sign of success, but readiness is. . . . It's about God.

David Guzik: We should not assume he [Matthias] was a "**dud**" as an apostle; except for Peter and John, none of the original twelve are mentioned again after [Acts 1](#). We just do not know.

Application ("So what is the point?")

1. Be **ready** (even if you do not get come in first place—most people do not)
2. Someone will always come in **second** place (think about how many in that room that were not even nominated)
3. This story is really about **God** and us giving Him first place. He is asking, "Why not Me?"

I am second video.

Personalization ("Now what do I do with that?")

1. Don't **quit**
2. **Serve** anyways

Suggested Resource

IAmSecond.com

Point to ponder: Am I first or am I second?