

TEACHING PRESENTED BY ELDER UDU G.O.C ON THE 2TH OF NOVEMBWR, 2020

TOPIC: **ANTECEDENT OF CHURCH OF CHRIST**

TEXT: **ACTS 1:12-26**

OUTLINE

- ⦿ Antecedent defined with examples
- ⦿ Preparation for church establishment
 - The divine commission
 - The ascension of Jesus Christ
 - Awaiting the coming of the Holy Ghost
- ⦿ Lessons and conclusion

ANTECEDENT

Antecedent means “*things that existed before the other*” or “things that logically or serially precede other ones”. It means *preceding in time* or order, previous or pre-existing.

Although the word antecedent may have other meanings, the above are the ones most suitable for our lesson today. Every important project should be planned before execution. Building a house, buying a car, starting a business, marrying a wife are all minor projects but they attract relevant planning processes. It is a time to brainstorm.

Christ in *Luke 14:28* asked “*which of you wishing to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?*” Our God is a God of planning and He wants us to imbibe the habit of planning. Antecedent in this lesson therefore means the activities of the Apostles between when *Christ ascended* and when the *Holy Ghost descended*.

PREPARATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

- ⦿ Acts 1:3 Christ presents Himself to the Apostles with proof
- ⦿ Acts 1:4 Directs them not to leave Jerusalem
- ⦿ Acts 1:8 Be my witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the whole earth once you receive the Holy Ghost.
- ⦿ Acts 1:9 Christ was then lifted up and heaven received Him Acts 1:11 While they were still amazed and gazing, two Angels informed them that Christ would return in the same way
- ⦿ Acts 1:12 They returned unto Jerusalem from mount olive.

- ⦿ Acts 1:13 They went into the upper room -Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon the zealot and Judas (the brother of James)
- ⦿ Acts 1:14 They continued together in prayer and supplications with woman including Mary, the mother of Jesus and the brothers of Jesus Christ
- ⦿ Acts 1:15 In one of those days Peter stood up and demanded that the position of Judas Iscariot should be changed. As at that time, they were about one hundred and twenty (120) followers of Christ.
- ⦿ Acts 1:16 Peter's call was to fulfill the scriptures in Psalm 41:9 (Christ's betrayal) and Psalm 109:8 (Judas' replacement). Judas should be replaced for the work of the ministry.
- ⦿ Acts 1:20 Judas' replacement was further buttressed in line with Psalm 69:25 (His place let another take)
- ⦿ Acts 1:21 Replacement must be based on experience, starting with Christ's baptism to His ascension
- ⦿ Acts 1:23 Joseph called Barsabas and surnamed Justus and Matthias were nominated
- ⦿ Acts 1:24 They prayed that God should choose one of them as replacement
- ⦿ Acts 1:26 They casted lots and it fell on Matthias. Matthias then replaced Judas Iscariot in the ministry

CONCLUSION

God taught us planning from creation and Jesus Christ taught us planning while He was on earth. We should always plan and lay good foundation for every project we want to embark on. Any time a leader is missing for any reason, a suitable replacement must be made so that the work of the ministry will not suffer.

THANK YOU