

Luke 24:44-53 ESV

# Instructed and Empowered

## Let Us Go and Tell!

Thursday, May 5 at 7 PM

The Ascension of Our Lord – 2016

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Do you ever feel powerless, *like things are out of your control*? For example:

- Our nation; yes, we can **vote**, *but will that really make any positive difference*?
- People who are not saved; yes, we can **share God's Word**, *but will that really make any positive difference*?

It's easy to give up; *the devil wants us to give up, but God wants to instruct us—with His truth, and empower us—with His Spirit!*

Today, as we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven, we focus on **Luke 24:44-53**. May the Holy Spirit enable us to **understand Jesus' instructions**, **be aware of His power within us**, and **take action to tell others about Jesus!**

1. **Jesus Gave Instructions:** So, *previously*, He **came**, **lived**, **suffered**, and **died**; but *then, as the Risen Savior*, He focused on the things that are most important with these words of instruction:
  - a. <sup>44</sup> **Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms [thus in all of the Old Testament Scriptures] must be fulfilled."** // During Jesus' time on earth the NT

had not yet been written, *so the Scriptures were the OT Scriptures!* It's true that the OT does *not* include the **actual** living, dying, and rising of Jesus, **but, over and over again, the OT points ahead to the work Jesus would do to take away the sin of the world! Jesus said this to some Jewish leaders, as recorded in [John 5](#), “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is they that bear witness about me**” (v. 39 ESV).**

- b. <sup>45</sup> **Then** [the Bible records that **Jesus**] **opened their minds to understand the Scriptures** [*thus to see the many references to Him in the OT*], <sup>46</sup> **and** [He] **said to them, “Thus it ~~is~~ [has been] written,**
- i. **that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,** <sup>47</sup> **and**
  - ii. **that repentance ~~and~~ [UNTO] forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**
- // So those are important truths to share with others: ➔ Jesus is the Christ – *thus the Promised Savior*; ➔ Jesus did suffer much – *both physically and spiritually*; ➔ Jesus did lay down His life – *when His work was done*; and, *on the third day*, ➔ Jesus did rise from the dead! Jesus did a finished work! Now the whole world is being invited to receive the benefits of His work – thru repentance UNTO forgiveness! So what is repentance?

1. Two uses of the term repentance:

- a. Narrow use: *Sorrow for sin*; for example: <sup>ESV</sup> **Mark 1:15** ... “The kingdom of God is near. Repent [thus, be sorry for your sins] and believe in the gospel.” Since “believe” is also in the verse, “repent” means only *sorrow for sin!*
- b. Broad use: Both *sorrow for sin and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin*; for example: <sup>NAS</sup> **Ezekiel 18:32** “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord God. “Therefore, repent and live.” Since “believe” is not in the verse, “repent” means both *sorrow and faith!*
2. Repentance UNTO forgiveness: Since we need forgiveness for heaven, *we all want it!* But Jesus said, “**repentance UNTO forgiveness,**” *so repentance is necessary!* The Holy Spirit works through the Bible to move us to repent – to ♦ make us sorry for all sins, *especially for rejecting Jesus,* and ♦ give us faith in Jesus as Savior!
- c. <sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses of these things.** // We could say there are two parts: Jesus’ work of

redemption—*which is DONE*, and our part of sharing what Jesus has done—*which is ongoing!*

2. **Jesus Told about the Holy Spirit:** <sup>49</sup> **And behold, I am sending [send] the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.** // Jesus was looking ahead to the Day of Pentecost, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit; *that is the same Spirit we received when we were baptized, so we have the power to tell what He has done!*
  
3. **Jesus Ascended into Heaven:**
  - a. <sup>50</sup> **Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.** <sup>51</sup> **While he blessed them, he parted [went away] from them ~~and was carried up into heaven.~~** // So His hands were up in blessing as He ascended; *now He is reigning over all things for the good of the Church, thus all who know Him as Savior!*
  
  - b. <sup>52</sup> **And they ~~worshiped him and~~ returned to Jerusalem with great joy,** <sup>53</sup> **and were continually in the temple blessing God.** // Yes, Jesus ascended and they were filled with great joy; let us also be filled with great joy – *because our Savior is reigning for our benefit!*

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: Dear Jesus, T.Y. for finishing Your work to remove our sins! Dear Holy Spirit, empower us to tell others about Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!