

It's None of Your Business!

Thursday 5/30 at 7 PM

The Ascension of Our Lord – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Try to imagine Jesus' disciples during *the last two months of His time on earth*:

- They *reluctantly* went with Him to Jerusalem!
- They experienced the **very** exciting, **very** fearful, and **very** heart-wrenching events of Holy Week!
- They had *great joy* when they saw Jesus alive!
- They still didn't understand their mission – *even up to the very day when Jesus ascended into heaven!*

Therefore, Jesus had to basically tell them regarding one topic: *It's none of your business!* Then Jesus clarified their mission! We now go to Acts chapter 1:

1. **The Gospel of Luke:** ¹ **In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,** ² **until the day when he was taken up [to heaven], after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.** ³ **[Jesus] presented himself alive to [the apostles] after his suffering [and death] by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.**
 - a. The first book / account: God the Father, *by the Holy Spirit*, moved Luke to write down the Gospel – *the good news of Jesus* – according to Luke. God also used Luke to write down the book of Acts, which is a historical account of the Acts of the Apostles: **covering**

the 25 years after Jesus was taken up and
♦ documenting the spread of the gospel *from Jerusalem to Rome* and *from the Jews to the Gentiles*.

- b. Commands through the Holy Spirit: When Jesus was baptized, *He was anointed with the Holy Spirit*; therefore, everything He did among His apostles during His years of ministry was in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Jesus presented Himself alive: Try to imagine the *brutality* and *finality* of Jesus' death; *He was certainly dead*, so He showed Himself to be alive many times so His followers would know *He is certainly alive and will live forevermore!*
 - d. The kingdom of God: *Jesus spoke about it* between His resurrection and His ascension. Earthly kingdoms are *geographical kingdoms*; for example, the United States of America includes those who are legally under the reign of our current president. However, the kingdom of God is a *non-geographical kingdom*; it includes all people throughout the whole world who have God reigning over their hearts and lives!
2. **The Day of Pentecost**: ⁴ **And while staying** [gathering together] **with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”** // On the evening before Jesus died, He said to His disciples, “...it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (Jn. 16:7 ESV). The time in our text is 40 days after Jesus was raised

from the dead. Jesus reminded His apostles of the necessity to remain in Jerusalem until they received the promised Holy Spirit. Jesus said He would be sent soon... and He was... *only 10 days later*.

3. **Now What?**

- a. Earthly minded: ⁶ **So when they had come together [on the Mount of Olives], they asked [Jesus], “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”** ⁷ **He said to them, “It is not for you to know times [periods of time] or seasons [appointed times] that the Father has fixed by his own authority. // What were the apostles talking about? Under the reign of King David, the enemies of Israel were conquered and the borders were expanded. Then, for centuries, the people of Israel were oppressed by their enemies. So when Jesus – the Christ, the great son of David, the King of Israel – came, the apostles were NOT thinking Kingdom of God BUT Kingdom of Israel! Therefore, Jesus basically told them: “Such things are *none of your business*; instead, they are in God’s hands!”**
- b. Heavenly minded: ⁸ **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** // In other words, Jesus basically said: “The focus is NOT on Israel *BUT on telling others about me throughout the whole world!* Begin here in Jerusalem (*which they did on the Day of Pentecost*); then continue in the regions of Judea and Samaria; then continue all the way to the end of the earth! Why? Since all have sinned – *which closed heaven*, and I have removed all sins – *which opened*

heaven, I want all to †hear, †repent and believe, and †eternally benefit!” The apostles not only knew the truth, *they were also eyewitnesses of all that Jesus said and did!*

4. **Jesus' Ascension:**

- a. **He went up to reign:** ⁹ **And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted [taken] up, and a cloud took [received] him out of their sight. //** During the 40 days Jesus *immediately* appeared or disappeared, but here He †was *slowly* taken up, †was seated at the right hand of the Father, and †is now reigning over all for the good of believers!
- b. **He will come back:** ¹⁰ **And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men [angels in the form of men] stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” //** Those angels imparted much information: They †knew the men were from Galilee, †told them that Jesus is now in heaven, and †told them that Jesus would come again! Therefore, in so many words, *the angels urged the apostles to do what Jesus said: †wait for the Holy Spirit, and then †go and be His witnesses all the way to the end of the earth!*

This Week's Challenge: *Focus on telling others the good news!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, we are not eyewitnesses, but we do know the saving truth, *so help us to tell others!*

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