

## Following the Real Jesus: Ascension

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Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Acts 1:1-11; Hebrews 7:24-25;  
Matthew 16:13b-18; 28:16-20

### Following the Real Jesus: Ascension

<sup>1</sup> In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:1-2

<sup>3</sup> During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

<sup>4</sup> Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4-5

Convincing proofs that he was physically/bodily alive:

They were chosen to do something. The Holy Spirit was coming. They had to wait.

<sup>6</sup> So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” Acts 1:6

They personalize God’s mission and see it through consumer eyes. We all make the same mistake.

<sup>7</sup> He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. Acts 1:7

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Witnesses – tell their story. Their time with Jesus and the resurrection.

<sup>9</sup> After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. <sup>10</sup> As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. Acts 1:9-10

<sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!” Acts 1:11

<sup>24</sup> But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. Hebrews 7:24–25

The kingdom of God doesn't center around one place or person's location.  
The spirit of the Jesus movement was coming and it would go everywhere the church goes.

<sup>13b</sup> “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13b

<sup>14</sup> “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” <sup>15</sup> Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Matthew 16:14-15

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Matthew 16:16-17

<sup>18</sup> Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18

*Ekklēsia: A group that meets together for various political, religious, and civic purposes.*

Church: House of the Lord. This is a profound change.

Church becomes a place that you go instead of something that you are. This is a movement killer!

*“Your life is always moving in the direction of your strongest thinking.” ~ Craig Groeschel*

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Matthew 28:16–17

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

The Command is make disciples. The “go” is there because God and His people are in motion.

<sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

Jesus will never abandon you because he was abandoned for you. He is always with His church. You are His church. Jesus is still leading a movement.

Being a disciple and making disciples is all about relationships.

What have you witnessed?

Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves.