

## Sermon Notes – 04.23.2017 “Seeing Jesus in the Ascension”

Jesus told the disciples it was good for Him to go away

**John 16:7** "... for **if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**

Jesus Commanded the Disciples to Wait for the Helper

**Acts 1:4-5** Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

- The Holy Spirit Was Going to Be Poured Out, But Not Until Jesus Ascended & Sent Him

The Spirit had been with them – Now He would “be in” them and “come upon” them

**John 14:15-17** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 **"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.** (This, He said after explaining that the one who had seen Jesus had seen the Father also)

**Act 1:8** but you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**Luke 24:49** "... **clothed with power from on high.**"

## Seeing Jesus At the Ascension, After Forty Days of Seeing the Risen Christ

The Disciples Were Focused on Jesus Restoring the “Kingdom to Israel” on Earth

**Acts 1:6** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

- Jesus refocused them on receiving the Holy Spirit and being His Witnesses

**Acts 1:8** but you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

As might be expected, They were also focused on where Jesus was Going

**Acts 1:9-12** And after He had said these things, **He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10** And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, **why do you stand looking into the sky?** This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem **from the mount called Olivet**, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

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- **The Angels refocused them on Jesus' Second Coming**

**Jesus wanted us to see Him “going to prepare a place” for us.**

**John 14:2-6** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for **I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4** "And you know the way where I am going." **5** Thomas \*said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" **6** Jesus \*said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**

**Jesus set the stage for His return – We won't have to guess**

- **Mount of Olives just outside the Golden or Beautiful Gate of Jerusalem**

**We are supposed to be sure he left – Deception abounds and great deception is coming**

**Matthew 24:23-27** "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is,*' do not believe *him.* **24** "For **false Christs and false prophets will arise** and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. **25** "Behold, I have told you in advance. **26** "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or,* 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them.* **27** **"For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

**Jesus Ascended “above all the heavens” after His resurrection in order to “fill all things”...again, this is for all of us**

**Ephesians 4:4-10** *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But **to each one of us grace was given** according to the measure of Christ's gift. **8** Therefore it says, "**WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.**" **9** (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is Himself also **He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.**)

- **Our Eternal Fellowship with Him is assured – He will Come for us**
- **We can be confident – We will know – We won't miss his coming for us**
- **We received “grace” “gifts” He ascended so he might “fill” us as part of his plan to “fill all things”**

**Isaiah 49:6** He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**"

**He ascended to empower us to fulfill the Great Commission**

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and

authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you