

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . ."

John 1:14

All are welcome at the manger.

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"The Ascension"

Luke 24:50-53

Dec. 15, 2024

Luke 24:50-53

50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

52 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

53 and were continually in the temple praising God.

50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

- Jesus had finished appearing to individuals and groups.

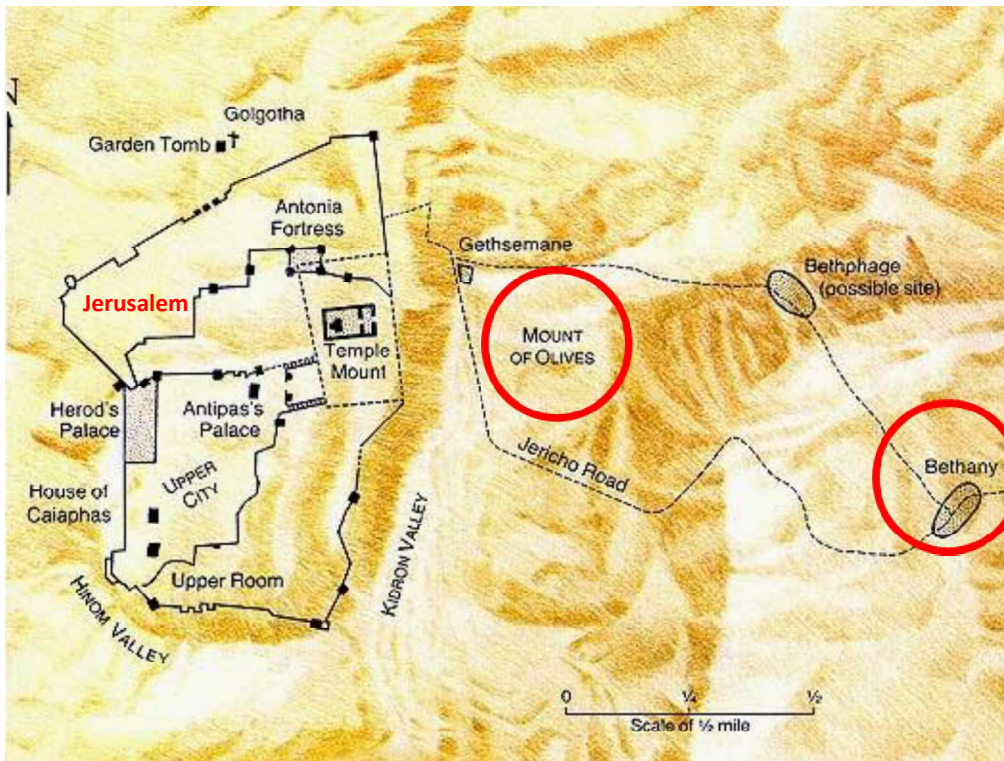
1 Cor 15:5-7

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

- Jesus is now preparing to ascend back to Heaven.
- He takes them out to Bethany, about a 2-mile walk.



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Acts 1:1-3

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, **appearing to them over a period of forty days** and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- Jesus is now preparing to ascend back to Heaven.
- He takes them out to Bethany, about a 2-mile walk.
- He blesses them. Not - "I hope things work out for you. Good luck."
- There is power in His blessing.

Luke 24:50-53

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“The picture is that of the Old Testament priest blessing the people after offering the sacrifice for them (Le 9:22). We tend to think of a blessing as a nice gesture that doesn't mean much in terms of actual consequences. But Jesus wasn't just wishing the disciples well when He blessed them. His blessing was absolutely essential for them and for us, if we are to carry on His work. Without Jesus' blessing, we can have large and successful ministries that will come to nothing in the end. We can build huge buildings and have thousands of people flocking to our church, but if we lack Jesus' blessing, it's all just wood, hay, and stubble that will be consumed by the fire of His judgment. “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”

(Ps 127:1).”

51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

- Jesus departs while still blessing them. Why? This will be the last thing they will remember – the continual blessing of God upon them.
- So He departs and is taken back to His heavenly home.

52 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

- This was a special time of worship. This is the last they would see of Him until death or Rapture.
- They return to Jerusalem to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The disciples return with joy.
- **Note:** No tears, sadness or sorrow.
- They are so thrilled that Jesus is alive, that all of the OT is true, and that they have a wonderful Spirit-filled life ahead of them.
- **“Joy”** – the deep-down abiding sense of well-being in the heart, knowing you are a believer, knowing that God’s Word is true, knowing God is with you always, knowing that all things work together for good, knowing when you die you will go into the presence of the risen Christ, and knowing Christ will soon return and you will spend an eternity with Him and enjoy forever the glories of Heaven.

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“continually” – the worship and praise to God did not stop in Bethany but remained in them.

- “Happiness” depends on “happenings.” Joy depends on Jesus.
- Notice where they go – to the temple. Hostile environment?? Circumstances can’t take away your joy and praise.

2. The Ascension resulted in the exaltation and glorification of Christ.

John 17:5

5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with **the glory which I had** with You before the world was.

Phil 2:9-11

9 For this reason also, **God highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Eph 1:20-23

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

10 REASONS WHY THE ASCENSION IS IMPORTANT AND OF GREAT BENEFIT TO US:

1. The Ascension brought to an end the self-limitation of Christ.

Phil 2:6-7

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

3. The Ascension opened the door for a resurrected humanity into Heaven.

1 Cor 15:20,23

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep.

23 Christ the **first fruits**, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

Heb 6:19-20

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

20 where Jesus has entered **as a forerunner for us**,

4. The Ascension marked the beginning of Christ’s ministry of intercession and advocacy.

Heb 7:25

25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them.

1 John 2:1

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

5. The Ascension allowed Christ to send the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7

7 "But I tell you the truth, 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**.

“Jesus departed
so the Spirit
could be imparted.”

8. The Ascension was the coronation of Christ for the mission He accomplished.

John 19:30

30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Heb 10:12

12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,**

9. The Ascension begins Christ's preparation of our heavenly home.

John 14:2-3

2 "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.

6. The Ascension resulted in Christ giving gifted men to the Church.

Eph 4:7-13

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.)

11 And **He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,**

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

7. The Ascension was Christ's final triumph over Satan.

1 John 3:8

8 The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to **destroy the works of the devil.**

10. The Ascension secures and guarantees Christ's return.

Acts 1:10-11

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.**"

Matt 24:30

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory.

Zech 14:4

4 In that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley,