**Between His Ascension and Kingdom**

*Acts 1:9-26*

**Introduction**

1. Jesus spent 40 days after His resurrection appearing at various times to His disciples and teaching them about the kingdom.
2. He told the apostles they would receive the Promise of the Father – HS Baptism – in Jerusalem soon.
3. He ascended, and the disciples returned to Jerusalem to away Pentecost where the would be endued with power from on high.
4. The intervening days provide lessons we can learn.
5. Jesus will return, but we do not watch for Him with our eyes. **(vv. 9-11)**
6. His ascension was necessary – **(v. 9):**
	1. To receive His kingdom – **Acts 2:30, 33** – raised to sit on throne, exalted.
		1. According to prophecy – **Daniel 7:13-14**
		2. As Jesus said – **Luke 19:11-12** (Parable of Minas) – **(v. 11)** – kingdom not to appear immediately with His approach to Jerusalem, but after He goes away.
			1. NOTE: **(v. 15)** – His return is after ***“having received the kingdom”*** – not to receive it then.
	2. For the apostles to receive the kingdom – **Luke 22:28-30** – following dispute concerning greatness.
		1. ***“bestow upon you a kingdom”*** – *basileia* – the act of ruling (BDAG)
		2. **John 17:11, 17-19** – leaving them in the world, ascending to the Father, that they may be sanctified in the world by the truth – set apart for their ministry.
	3. To send the Holy Spirit – **Acts 1:5, 8** – receive Holy Spirit soon.
		1. **John 15:26-27; 16:5-7** – necessary to fulfill their duty, but must depart to send the Spirit.
7. His ascension was with promise of His return – **(vv. 10-11):**
	1. His return is for judgment – reward and punishment – **Luke 19:26-27** – faithful servants who discharged their duty are rewarded (cities), unfaithful servants and enemies punished.
	2. His ascension leaves behind duty for His people.
8. In the meantime, we look for His return through active faith – **(v. 11):**
	1. **2 Corinthians 5:7, 16** – walk by faith, not sight, they would not see Him in that way again until the final day.
	2. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** – His return will be without warning, and sudden – it is unknown.
		1. **(vv. 1-2)** – knowledge that the time is unknown – could be anytime.
		2. **(v. 3)** – some won’t be ready.
		3. **(vv. 4-8)** – you can be ready – of the day (light of truth) – **(v. 8)** – readiness not through physical sight, but righteous living.
		4. **(vv. 9-11)** – God has set us up for victory in Jesus.
9. Disciples of Jesus are with one accord. **(vv. 12-14)**
10. Before:
	1. Debate about greatness – **Luke 22:24**
	2. Each would be scattered – **Matthew 26:31** (NOTE: These two events are adjacent in time.)
	3. Unbelief/confusion/pessimism/fear – **Mark 16:12-13; John 20:19**
11. After His resurrection and ascension – **(v. 14)** – ***“with one accord”***
	1. *Homothymadon* – “with one mind/purpose/impulse” (BDAG)
		1. ***“These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer” (NASB)***
		2. “knit by a bond stronger than death.” (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown)
		3. “A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison". The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.” (Outline of Biblical Usage)
		4. “The word denotes the entire harmony of their views and feelings. There were no schisms, no divided interests, no discordant purposes. This is a beautiful picture of devotion” (Barnes)
	2. Jesus’ desire – **John 17:20-23** – made perfect in one.
	3. **Psalm 133** – unity among God’s people is a blessing.
	4. We must endeavor to keep this unity! – **Ephesians 4:1-6** – faithfulness **(v. 1),** humility and care **(v. 2**), effort **(v. 3a),** peace **(v. 3b),** the provision of oneness in God **(vv. 4-6).**
12. The resurrection of Jesus is life changing. **(v. 14)**
13. Among those in the upper room in Jerusalem **(vv. 12-14):**
	1. Apostles – **(v. 13)** – 11
	2. The women – **(v. 14)** – **Luke 8:1-3; 23:55; 24:10** – who followed Him from Galilee.
	3. Mary the mother of Jesus – **(v. 14)**
	4. His (Jesus’) brothers – **(v. 14)**
14. Significance of Mary the mother of Jesus:
	1. Her increasing faith:
		1. **Luke 2:19** (shepherds relaying what the angel told them) – born a Savior, Christ the Lord – peace, goodwill toward men.
		2. **Luke 2:51** (after losing Jesus at 12 years old) – finding Him in the temple, and His words concerning His Father’s business.
			1. **She kept (treasure up, protect) them in her heart, and pondered them (deep thought, consideration).**
		3. **John 2:1-5** – this itself expresses a faith in Jesus being more than an ordinary Jewish man.
			1. **(v. 4)** – Jesus’ words confirm He is more – she would have to start seeing him as more than her son (***“Woman”***), and His task greater than wedding festivities.
			2. **(v. 5)** – whatever she understood by Jesus’ words, and whatever she meant by her own, it shows deference and trust in Jesus.
	2. Her fleshly connection with Jesus would intensify the grief – **Luke 2:35; John 19:25-27** – His words to her on the cross form bookends with His words to her beginning His ministry – She is not to see Him as her Son anymore, but her Lord.
		1. **Luke 11:27-28** – Her blessedness comes from her relation as a disciple.
	3. **Acts 1:14** – now she is among the others as a fellow disciple of her risen Lord (**cf. 2 Corinthians 5:16**).
		1. **“Mary not only gave birth to her Son; she also assisted with the birth of the church.” (Hendriksen)**
		2. What had been told her at the conception of Jesus in her womb was about to reach its apex (**cf. Luke 1:32**), and she still pondered and anticipated with confidence.
15. Significance of His brothers:
	1. **Acts 1:14** – the brothers of Jesus were there (**cf. Mark 6:3** – James, Joses, Judas, Simon).
	2. Like with Mary, they would come to understand who he is, and what their ultimate relation to Him was to be – **Luke 8:19-21**
	3. **John 7:5** – they did not believe in Him.
	4. The Lord appeared to His brother James – **1 Corinthians 15:7** (distinct from apostles)
		1. James would become a significant member in Jerusalem – **Galatians 2:9**
		2. James was used by the HS to write an epistle.
		3. Jude was used by the HS to write an epistle.
		4. Both – ***“a bondservant of Jesus Christ”***
		5. **They weren’t mourning a dead brother, but serving a risen Savior.**
16. We decide which place we go to. **(vv. 15-26)**
17. Peter took the lead in fulfilling the need to fill the void Judas left in the apostolic office:
	1. **Acts 1:15-17** – scripture spoken concerning Judas “had to be fulfilled.”
		1. ***“had to be”*** – *dei*; - it is necessary. (Because the Lrod. Said it would happen, and He knows all.)
			1. Verb, Imperfect, Active
			2. **Imperfect – “Generally represents continual or repeated action. Where the present tense might indicate "they are asking," the imperfect would indicate "they kept on asking."”**
		2. Would include what had already been fulfilled – **Psalm 41:9 (cf. John 13:18)**
		3. **Would look to scriptures yet to be fulfilled – what was spoken about Judas all must be fulfilled.**
	2. The scriptures which had to be fulfilled **– Acts 1:20**
		1. **Psalm 69:25** – not spoken concerning Judas specifically, but in Messianic Psalm with consideration of His enemies.
			1. When Judas became an enemy of Christ, he forfeited his place as an apostle.
		2. **Psalm 109:8** – as the enemy of David is seen unworthy of his office, and in need of being replaced, so it was with Judas.
	3. The qualifications and appointment – **Acts 1:21-26** – they left it to the hands of God to appoint the right man.
18. The words describing Judas are concerning – **Acts 1:16-17, 25** – ***“had to be fulfilled,” “that he might go to his own place”*** (an idiom having reference to eternal punishment – torment in Hades, then Gehenna).
	1. Why was it ***“his own place?”*** – not predestined, not without choice, not disadvantaged, not a mistake of Jesus.
	2. Jesus’ appointment of the apostles was with great care – **Luke 6:12-16** – night full of prayer preceded the selection.
		1. **NOTE: *“who also BECAME a traitor”***
	3. Judas developed his own character by choice – **John 12:3-6**
		1. He heard Jesus’ teaching – **Luke 12:15, 31**
		2. He hardened his own heart, and allowed Satan in – **Luke 22:3-6**
		3. He had the choice later on – **John 13:2, 26-27** – not Jesus telling Him to go betray Him, but for Him to make His choice.
19. We have a choice – **Matthew 7:13-14** – the two destinations are prepared, and those who arrive at either one have prepared themselves for such arrival by the choices they made.

**Conclusion**

1. We need to be watching for Jesus’ return by faith.
2. We need to be unified in the purpose of God through Jesus.
3. We need to let Jesus’ powerful resurrection transform our lives.
4. We need to make provisions by faith to go to heaven, lest we are found to be making provisions to go where Judas went.