The Sadness, Glory, & Joy of Jesus' Goodbye

Luke 24:44-53
March 16, 2025

The Big Idea: The resurrected Jesus appeared periodically over 40 days, coming to the disciples to teach, encourage, restore, and prepare them for the future. He told them and us that ***we must proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins in Christ's name to all the nations, in the power of the Spirit.***

Luke 24 (ESV)

24 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that *everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled*." 45 Then he opened their minds *to understand the Scriptures*, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that ***repentance*** for the forgiveness of sins ***should be proclaimed in his name to all nations***, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 ***You are witnesses*** of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But *stay in the city* until *you are clothed with power from on high*."

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And ***they worshiped him*** and ***returned*** to Jerusalem ***with great joy***, 53 and ***were continually in the temple blessing God***.

God's Plan

- That those who witnessed Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection would tell the story of God's Salvation found in Christ.
- The message is fixed. It is found the Scriptures which all point us to Jesus.
  - We'll never understand God's Word without God's *enabling*. Apart from Christ's illumination of our minds, we are spiritually blind.
- That we don't make up the message. Rather, we accurately and faithfully deliver the message of the Gospel to all the peoples of the world. [Ephesians 1:3-14]
- That we never get side-tracked with all the good but secondary things at the expense of the Primary Thing which God gave us to do!

God's Purpose

+ That the necessary and once for all sacrifice for payment for our Sin and the securing of our redemption be accomplished.
+ That through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God and the illumination of that Scripture by the Holy Spirit, minds would be opened to understanding the Scripture so that beginning in this life we can "glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
+ That for eternity in heaven, because of the faithfulness of God's people on earth, all the nations will gather around the Throne in worship of God. [Revelation 7:9-12]

God's People

- In verses 46-47 we are given the Message: Christ's death and resurrection and the call to repentance from sins and to Jesus.
- The first generation of believers were eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus in Jerusalem. We carry their story and tell of our own experience of salvation through faith in Jesus.
- The Gospel is to be taken to "all nations."
- The first witnesses were to wait until the coming of the Holy Spirit, both indwelled them and empowered them.
  - → Every Christian has the Holy Spirit within you and He works both in and through you to carry the Gospel to those who need to hear it. [Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14]
- Jesus loves to pray for and bless His followers. The appropriate response to Jesus is to worship Him continually, joyfully live for Him, and to constantly praise Him. [Luke 24:50-53]

The Lord's words, "beginning at Jerusalem," tell us that there is no sinner that God cannot save. Our mission is to offer forgiveness of sins to the worst of sinners if they will repent.

- Steven J. Cole