



The Ascension Luke 24

April 7

OVERVIEW: [Luke](#)

CONTEXT: Luke ends with some beautiful post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus: on the road to Emmaus (when the disciples realized, “did not our hearts burn within us”) and another occasion where He ate fish to prove He was real. Luke both concludes his Gospel and begins Acts with the Ascension. Today we’ll consider this important, yet usually neglected, moment in Jesus life.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (the Resurrection)

- Why does Christianity stand or fall on the Resurrection?
- What are some ways we can know Jesus actually rose from the dead?
- Why is the Resurrection good news?
- How does believing in Jesus’s Resurrection cause us not to fear some of the scariest things in this life?

READ: Lk 24:50–53 (see also Acts 1:6–11)

QUESTIONS:

1. **Have you ever had to say a long goodbye to someone? What was that like?**
2. *The Ascension was the bodily rising of Jesus into heaven that occurred 40 days after the Resurrection.*
3. **Why would this event have been sad for the disciples?**
 1. Why does John 16:6 speak of his ascension as “to your advantage”?
4. Vv. 50b–51a- What does it mean to bless someone, for Jesus to bless? Why was Jesus blessing them as He ascended?
What do you think He was saying?
5. V. 51b- “Carried up into heaven”- *Acts adds information about a cloud. What do clouds represent in the Bible?*
 1. Bearing that in mind, what do you think Acts 1:11b means?
6. *Jesus is bodily somewhere! Heaven is a place! (Though different from the New Heavens and New Earth).*

7. **V. 52a- If they worshipped Jesus He must be ____?**

8. **Jesus’ Ascension means (or was necessary):**

1. _____ (Jn 17:5; Phil 2:9)
 - i. *This showed that God was pleased with Jesus.*
 2. _____ (Ps 110:6; Heb 1:3; Acts 2:33)
 - i. *This means Jesus has finished His work and rules in authority. It also was necessary for the sending forth of the Spirit (Acts 2:33).*
 3. _____ (Jn 14:3; 1 The 4:17)
 - i. *Whether through death or at His coming it gives us assurance of this.*
 4. _____ (Eph 2:6; 2 Cor 10:4)
 - i. *Our future sharing (Heb 2:5–8; Rev 3:21)*
9. Jesus’ Ascension also proves this promise true, Ja 4:6.
10. If seeing Jesus ascend in glory wasn’t enough, what else did they witness (Acts 1:10)?
11. **The angels turn their attention from heaven to earth. Much of the Bible seeks to do the opposite, why did they intervene in this way and with the assurance they gave?**
12. V. 52b- On what we suppose could have been such a sad occasion, why did they have “great joy”?
13. V. 53- At the outset, why did the disciples continue to spend so much time at the Temple?
14. *Since the 4th century the Chapel of the Ascension has marked the traditional location of Jesus’ ascension on the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem.*



NEXT TIME: April 14, Acts 4—Peter and John