

40 Days

What Jesus did between His Resurrection & Ascension.

In Acts, Luke is the only writer to inform us of the timespan between these two momentous events, during *forty days* (Acts 1:3). Of all the Gospels and Acts we might rank the amount of Resurrection material: Mark, Matthew, Luke-Acts and John. Taking our cue from the introduction of Acts (vv. 1–5) we will answer our question under four headings:

1. TEACHING (vv. 1–2)- *Jesus continued to teach after His Resurrection:*

A Christ-centred view of Scripture and History (Lk 24:25–27, 44, 46)

What is the key way of understanding the Bible? (hermeneutics)

While they enjoyed fellowship, what riches filled their time together? What do we spend our time speaking about or dwelling upon (‘opening our minds’), Christ and His teachings or the weather, etc?

Even if we don’t always remember, how does Christ by His Spirit often brings His teachings to mind (c.f. Jn 12:16)?

About the Kingdom (v. 3)

The “kingdom” is used most in the Gospels (common) and then at the beginning of Acts (6x). Given its importance, how often do we think/speak of Christ’s Kingdom?

How does “King/Kingdom” help us understand the Bible’s story and the Gospel?

2. COMMANDING (v. 2)- *Jesus commanded the disciples, now apostles to go...*

Commissioning (e.g. Mt 28:16–20; [Mk 16:14–20]; Lk 24:47–48; John 20:21–23, 21:19)

Not only do they need confidence via proofs (see below) but from authority. What are they commissioned to do? How does Jesus' authority encourage them and us?

3. PROVING (v. 3)- *τεκμήριον, tekmerion, a clear or definitive proof, a sure sign*

How is the Resurrection central to the Gospel (1 Cor 15:2–3)? Why does it matter we have certainty? (1 Cor 15:17)

Were the disciples just primitive men who were unscientific...?

Instances of the Resurrection (**consider one**):

Mt 28:1–10-women	Mk 16- women	[Mk 16:9–11-Magdalene]	[Mk 16:12–13-country walk]
Lk 24:13–35-Emmaus	Lk 24:36–43-touch, fish	Jn 20:11–18-Magdalene	Jn 20:19–20-locked doors
Jn 20:24–29-Thomas	Jn 21:1– -fishing at Tiberia, breakfast, Peter	1 Cor 15:6–7- 500 and James	Acts 9; 1 Cor 15:8-Paul

Was the Resurrection a dream or grief or wishful thinking given the evidence and the personal cost to the disciples? (Hippolytus said all but John, Matthew, Jude and Matthias were martyred)

4. PREPARING (vv. 4–5)- *Jesus prepared for the inauguration of the New Covenant with the sending of the Holy Spirit (c.f. Lk 24:49; Jn 16:13)*

Not many days... How was witness multiplied by waiting 10 more days until Pentecost? (c.f. Acts 2:9) Why else might Jesus have delayed?

Why did they/do we need the Holy Spirit if we are to be witnesses?