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empowered by the Spirit

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 2 • JAN 19



NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: What's a New Year's Resolution you made but never kept?

BACKGROUND

At the conclusion of Luke's first Gospel (Luke 24:45-46), it says that Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures of prophecy regarding the Messiah, and He, Jesus, was the fulfillment of those prophecies. Luke 24:47-53 then briefly summarizes Jesus' ascension and concludes the book.

In the first chapter of Acts, Luke summarizes Jesus' work in the forty days after His resurrection (vv. 2-3). The following verses 4-14 describe His instructions and the events that occurred on the top of the Mount of Olives. It was there where He spoke to them for the last time before He ascended into Heaven on a cloud. Jesus instructed them to remain in Jerusalem and await His Father's gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4). As the disciples gazed into the sky, they became aware of two men in white clothing standing beside them. The men said *"Men of Galilee, why are you 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"* (v. 11).

The disciples then returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which was a Sabbath day's journey away. Upon entering Jerusalem, they went to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** Acts 1:7

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."

READ: Acts 1:9-14

**HEAD LEVEL:** These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. Who were the two men mentioned in Acts 1:10?
2. What did these men say to the disciples in Acts 1:11? How does that compare to the following verses: Matthew 24:30, 26:64; Revelations 1:7?
3. Verse 9 mentions that Jesus was lifted on a cloud into heaven. Look at the following verses: Exodus 13:21, 19:9; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Revelation 1:7. How are these both similar and different? What is the significance of the cloud?

**HEART LEVEL:** These help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. Mount Olive was mentioned in both the Old and New Testament. Why is it's location to Jerusalem important?
2. What is the importance of mentioning that Mary, the mother of Jesus, and His brothers being present in the upper room (see Acts 1:14)?
3. Why might Paul's description of Christ's second coming (1 Thessalonians 4:16) be different from Luke's?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Luke repeated Jesus's last acts and instructions to His disciples, and His ascension into Heaven in Luke 24:46-53 and Acts 1:1-14. Which is more detailed? What are the differences between the two? Why are they both relevant?



HANDS LEVEL: These help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. Imagine being in the upper room waiting, as His disciples were in Acts 1:13, what is holding you back from leaving?



MEMORY VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)