

## Parting Instructions.

Acts 1:4-8.

Sunday morning, May 10, 2009.

- I. He Commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem... Vs. 4.
- A. This was remarkable since Jerusalem was probably the most dangerous place to meet and to wait for the disciples.  
Following the resurrection had not the Lord directed them to quiet Galilee where they would see and meet with Him? Here the disciples could breath a little easier and be more relaxed; away from Jerusalem and all its dangers.
- B. Why does the Lord bring them back to Jerusalem to wait for the Spirit?
1. Jerusalem was the heart of the OT economy.
  2. The temple was the dwelling place of God among His people.
  3. The Lord had put His Name on that place. In that place and from that place the presence of the Lord went out to all His people.
  4. This was the place where people went to worship; even in the captivity the godly Daniel prayed at an open window facing Jerusalem.
  5. Here the Lord Jesus had been brought as an infant by his parents, to be presented to the Lord.
  6. Here the Lord Jesus had gone at the age of twelve, as He entered manhood, to discuss the things of God with the religious leaders of His day.
- C. Now the Holy spirit was going to come, and take the Kingdom of God to a whole new level, and bring a whole new meaning to the shadowy forms of the OT.
1. He was going to give a whole new meaning to "Jerusalem," and so we find "Jerusalem above" in the NT. Gal 4:26
  2. He was going to give a new meaning to the temple; all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ would now constitute living stones in the new temple, and they would form a habitation of God in the Spirit. Eph. 2:22 and 1 Peter 2:5.
  3. He was going to give a new meaning to the priesthood. There would be no longer a representative priesthood, but all believers in the Lord Jesus would be priests, lined up under the high priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:9.
  4. He was going to give a new meaning to the sacrifices and the blood of sacrificial animals which was shed, by the blood of Christ which was shed for sinners; by His once for all sacrifice of Himself on the cross. Hebrews 9:13,14.
- D. Since the Holy spirit would come and transform and fill up the shadowy ordinances of the OT economy it was necessary that He should come and start at the place where these shadowy forms were headquartered; in Jerusalem.

### Application:

The godly of OT times would go to the place God had chosen to dwell among His people to bring their petitions; especially the pressing ones. Hannah went to the tabernacle in Shiloh to pray for a son. Hezekiah spread out the letter from Sennacherib before the Lord in the temple. We too have such a place: Jerusalem above; the heavenly temple, and the throne of grace. Here the Lord would deal with us first, and only secondly with our request. Here we die to ourselves and to this world first, and then we are filled with the good things of the Lord's provision.

1. Hanna died to her own ambition of having a son for herself, then she was given a son to give back to the Lord. 1 Samuel 1:8-18.
2. Hezekiah's prayer was answered with regards to the Assyrian threat when he pleaded not for his and his people's prosperity and safety, but for the glory and the honor and for the reputation of the Lord's Name. Isaiah 37:14-20.

We too are told not to depart from Jerusalem (above); the heavenly temple; the throne of grace. We too have been given the promise of help, and of the Helper, who will do His own work in His own way and time; only let us wait for it. Hebrews 4:14-16.

## II. "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Vs. 6.

- A. One more time the disciples nationalistic ambitions; their ambitions for themselves and this world, surface.
- B. These were mistaken ambitions in three different ways:
  1. With regards to timing. We are mere mortals; we can not begin to pry into the Lord's timeline for history, nor for our own lives or the lives of others. With this truth in view the Lord had taught the parable of the talents, where the Master of the servants is absent for a long time. Luke 19:11-27.

### Application:

We too are not to pry into the timing of the progress of the kingdom of God in the world, nor when and where and how God will use His servants. John 21:21. Rather we are to die to these things, and leave them with the Lord.

2. They were mistaken as to the scope of the Kingdom. They were possessed of a strong nationalistic ambition and hope. They were to die to that hope and embrace the Father's plan to embrace the despised Samaritans and the Gentile ends of the earth into His Kingdom
3. They were mistaken as to the kind of power that would bring the Kingdom about. Not outward power and might, but a quiet inward transforming work of the Holy Spirit, working by the preached Word. The disciples still had hope that their carnal efforts had a part in bringing this about. They had to die to their own native abilities. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord." Zechariah 4:6.

### Application:

1. The disciples, had to die to their own sense of timing; when the Lord was to work.
2. They had to die to their own ideas and ambitions as to what this work was to look like.
3. They had to die to their own strength in terms of hoping to help bring it about.
  - They were left in Jerusalem; waiting; we in New Jerusalem; waiting.
  - They were left with the promise of help, and a helper; so are we.
  - That help and the Helper came once the Lord had brought His disciples to the place where they needed to be, and so it will be with us.

Wait on the Lord at the throne of grace for two things: First to make you what you need to be, and then to bring help and the Helper into a particular difficult set of circumstances.