

The Ascension Notes

To begin read Acts 1:1-11

I. Introduction

The events from the resurrection to and including the ascension are not preached/taught often. However, the significance of this period and the events that occur are important to the Church as they are foundational and very much as paramount to our faith as the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Examining the seemingly common human experience that the Apostles and other followers of Christ had must be done in light of a resurrected Savior through the lens of an inconceivable act of God. Jesus the Christ, who was once dead, is now alive, walking, talking, eating and drinking along with other human activities.

To put this into perspective, what would be your reaction if you the day after your loved one died they showed up at your house for dinner? Would there be a “house for sale” sign up soon because your home has been invaded by a ghost? No doubt it would be unbelievable if not inconceivable event.

II. Information

Luke is clear about explaining that Jesus often appeared to the Apostles and other disciples over the course of 40 days (1:3). During that period of time Jesus “speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.” Jesus started his ministry teaching and preaching about the kingdom of God (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus not only teaches with words, he taught by example. We can consider him and show and tell teacher as he “went through Galilee...healing every disease and sickness among the people. (Matthew 4:23-25).

Jesus teaches the contract in lifestyles and being human from a kingdom prospective. This new, yet originally indented lifestyle was the primary focus of Jesus ministry. Pastor Terrence presented some “Shake’ em up theology” by claim that one if not the primary reason that Jesus came to earth was not salvation, but to teach the kingdom of God.” Again, a new, yet originally intended life for mankind.

What are your thoughts about this theology? What was your initial reaction? Do you embrace this approach to Jesus or is this too different from what you have been taught prior to Kingdom Ministries/C4?

Jesus, came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 9:56). But the purpose was to restore us to our rightful place in the kingdom of God. Sin caused us to loose our way. Because of sin Adam had to leave Eden, because of Jesus we can return to Eden.

No, we are not diminishing the significance of the shed blood of Jesus for the redemption of mankind. Nor are we minimizing the humanly unbearable and vicarious suffering of Christ on the cross. However, we must move beyond the threshold of salvation into the inexhaustible resources of the kingdom of God (God's way of doing things). It is possible (if not plausible) that much of the lack that Christians experience is because of not embracing this type of thinking. Sickness is not part of the kingdom covenant, it is a result of sin. Divine healing is a kingdom right. A decaying body is a result of the human experience through sin. A heal body is a result of the kingdom experience through faith.

III. Inspiration

Jesus' ascension was critical to the kingdom as the release of the Holy Spirit (the Enabler to living the kingdom lifestyle) would not have otherwise have happened. We can be like Jesus on the earth (1 John 4:17). Please don't confuse this to say we can "be" Jesus on the earth. Because of the Holy Spirit, who is in the believer, we have the ability to do what Jesus did when he was on the earth in human form. We capable, but are we willing?

IV. Conclusion

We will explore more of this type of kingdom theology in the days to come as we go back to the bases of Kingdom Ministries. Blessings.