

## Acts 1:12-26

v.9 *Luke 24:50-53 (NKJV)* 50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

- The **cloud** that **received Him** is suggestive of the cloud of glory (called the *Shekinah*) that is associated with the presence of God in the Old and New Testaments.

**While they watched, He was taken up:** It was important for Jesus to leave His disciples in this manner. In theory, He certainly could have simply vanished to heaven and the Father's presence in a secret sort of way. But by ascending in this manner, Jesus wanted His followers to know that He was gone for good, as opposed to the way He appeared and reappeared during the 40 days after His resurrection.

- Remember Jesus' words to His disciples in [John 16:7](#): *It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.* Now the disciples could know that that promise would be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit was coming because Jesus promised to send the Spirit when He left.

v.10 two men- angels or Moses and Elijah?

**This same Jesus:** *Heb 13:8 (NKJV)* *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

This is a glorious phrase. It reminds us that the Jesus ascended to heaven and seated at the right hand of God the Father is the **same Jesus** of the Gospels. He is the **same Jesus** of love, grace, goodness, wisdom, and care.

e. **Will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven:** Jesus will return just as He left.

- He left *physically* and **will so come in like manner**.
- He left *visibly* and **will so come in like manner**.
- He left from the *Mount of Olives* and **will so come in like manner**.
- He left in the *presence of His disciples* and **will so come in like manner**.
- He left *blessing His church* and **will so come in like manner**.

v.12-14 Let's put ourselves into that upper room

- Who was there? His brothers ( who had not previously believed) and Mary His mother, who no seems to be praying to or asking to intercede, this is the last mention of her in Scripture, remember from Luke's gospel that he was very aware and respectful of her but she takes her rightful place as a believer.

- interesting that 120 are there, since he had appeared alive to more than 500

They continued- stayed in, dwelt in, abided in- there were still differences, Matthew tax collector, Simon the terrorist

- one accord- one mind set, <sup>5</sup> *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,* <sup>7</sup> *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **Philippians 2:5 through Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)***

In prayer and supplication- Why were they praying and what were they praying about ?

**Why?** Hadn't they just been promised a mighty move of God, an unprecedented releasing of His power through the person of the Holy Spirit- shouldn't this have been a time to kick back and relax and let God do the work?

- they had the example of Jesus, Who instructed them always to pray- *Luke 18: 1<sup>1</sup>- Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*

- Men of power in Scripture have without exception been men of prayer

**What did they pray about?** I have to believe it was about the instructions He had given them, the ministry. What do we have to pray about here? Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth

\* the body- take a phone list, if you have email, give me your address so you can be included on our prayer list

***Don't find time to pray, make time to pray- God will lift you to the highest place you will let Him and do His best for you at that level, It's up to you how much God does in your life.***

v.15-20 we have the story of Judas- purchased-

- not a contradiction of Matthew 27, remember that this is a doctor writing this, he hung himself and either burst open or fell and burst open

v.21-25 the choosing of Matthias to replace Judas

There are those who would say that the apostles make a mistake in choosing Matthias

Arguments for yes, they made a mistake

- Paul says he is the apostle chosen by the will of God and not by the will of man, this could be a reference to this incident
- they apparently gave God only two choices
- they didn't wait for the giving of the Holy Spirit before they made their choice

Arguments for no, they didn't make a mistake

- Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles, the twelve are apostles to the Jews
- They had been in prayer and supplication and through the Word, Peter give instruction on this matter
- Matthias is included from this time as one of the twelve in Scripture, Acts 2:14- Peter standing with the eleven; Acts 6:2-12 the twelve called the multitudes

It is interesting that the Lord doesn't tell us if they were right or wrong, He honors what they do because they are seeking Him and trusting Him and committing their way unto Him. I believe if we truly do these things, He will not let us make a wrong decision, God will not allow us to fail if we are seeking Him. Does this mean that every venture will succeed? It means that every venture will accomplish His purpose and He will shut it down when HE is done with it.

Like the apostles, we too are in a time of great anticipation of the Lord's return. We too are in a place where I believe we will experience a mighty moving of God's power. The question is not whether or not He will move, the question is what part will we play in that move.

It must start with prayer, if we are not willing to do that, we will not be willing to be moved with His power,

It is prayer that puts us in touch with the Living God Who desires fellowship, Who desires to work in and through us. Now as God has moved the pieces into place, we come the place of the power for the work being released.