

Bible passage Acts 1.1-11

Introduction

- Celebrating Jesus' life: Beginning (birth and baptism); Middle (teaching, miracles and prayer) and End (cross resurrection or ascension?)

Ascension Day so important because:

1. Jesus is now on his throne

- J given 'all authority in heaven and on earth' when ascended to his throne where he is worshipped
- When J born in Bethlehem God came to earth to be with people. When Jesus ascended into heaven people were brought into the presence of God

2. Jesus now not restricted to one place and time

- Jesus fully human so only able to be in one place at a time
- Because J ascended into heaven God could send his Spirit who is able to be in more than one place at the same time

3. Jesus now has passed the baton on to us

- Jesus taught and showed people about the Kingdom of God when he was on earth in power of Spirit
- We are invited to continue Jesus' ministry empowered by the same Spirit

Conclusion

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1.8

Some questions for discussion

1. Which events in Jesus' life do you enjoy celebrating most?
2. Read Acts 1.1-11. What do you notice about the conversation and actions of those involved?
3. Jesus has been teaching his disciples for 40 days since his resurrection. What do they reveal about their understanding in the passage?
4. Rebecca gave three suggestions of why the ascension is important. Do you agree? Would you add other reasons?
5. Read Philippians 2.5-11. How does this deepen your understanding of the importance of the ascension?
6. Who is God asking you to be his witness to?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Acts 1.8

Why not spend some time thanking God that Jesus has ascended to his father and pray for more of his Spirit to fill you so you can be more effective witnesses for him?

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