

An End and a Beginning

I. Jesus' Preparing His Followers

Acts 1:3-11 (NIV)

³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ 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."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

A. Significance of disciples, v.3

B. An Exchange of Persons ---THE central message in his preparation for his departure

John 14:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans;

1. Jesus goes back to the Father

2. The Holy Spirit now the personal representative of the Godhead on earth

God---the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:38 (NIV)

³⁸ how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit** and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Romans 1:4 (NIV)

⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Not left alone/as orphans (John 14:18)

John 14:25-27 (NIV)

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

4. Learn when capable of receiving (developmentally aware)

John 16:12-13 (NIV)

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

II. Outcomes of the Exchange

A. Spirit Baptism

Matthew 3:11 (NIV)

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Mark 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:33 (NASB)

³³ "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

B. Empowered to be witnesses throughout the earth

John 14:12 (NIV)

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 2:36-41 (NIV)

³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" . . . ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 5:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give me a revelation of Jesus that brings transformation. Holy Spirit I welcome you into my life. May I be awakened to the invitations of God as never before. May a desire for holiness and purity grow within me. I choose to turn away from anything that diminishes God's purposes for my life. I commit my life into your hands; direct my steps, open my heart to your instruction, deliver me from my enemies, may those who seek my harm stumble and fall. I rejoice in your great faithfulness, in Jesus' name, amen.