

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 1:1-11**.
- B. The 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension are important ones. Jesus did some very special preparing of the apostles and other believers during this period.
- C. Notice in our lesson today the fundamentals that Luke records of Jesus teachings.

II. FIRST: **THE REALITY OF HIS RESURRECTION.**

- A. The text: Acts 1:3.
To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
- B. Jesus wanted His disciples to believe in the reality of His resurrection.
- C. The text says that Jesus gave many "infallible proofs," convincing proofs that He was no ghost, or figment of their imagination. He had risen from the dead!
- D. Notice the following appearances:
 - 1. To Thomas and the eleven behind closed doors (Jn. 20:26-28).
And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came[^], the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." [27] Then He said[^] to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." [28] Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
 - 2. To Peter on the seashore, cooking breakfast (Jn. 21:8,23).
But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish... [23] This saying therefore went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"
 - 3. To 500 of the brethren at one time (1Cor. 15:6).
After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;
 - 4. To Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus (Ac. 9:3-5).
And it came about that as he journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; [4] and he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" [5] And he said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
- E. We must believe in the resurrection of X. Paul outlines the consequences of not believing in the resurrection (see 1Cor. 15:13-17).
- F. In the short time Jesus had left on the earth, He wanted the disciples to be completely and thoroughly convinced of His bodily resurrection. Notice how the message of the apostles' contained the doctrine of the resurrection (Ac. 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32). We need to be sure ourselves.
(Ac 1:22) beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us-- one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection."
(Ac 2:32) "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.
(Ac 3:15) but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.
(Ac 5:30-32) "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. [31] "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. [32] "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

III. SECOND: **THE COMING OF HIS KINGDOM (THE CHURCH).**

- A. The text: Acts 1:3b.
To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- B. Jesus promised that some of the apostles would see the kingdom arrive in their lifetime (Mk. 9:1).
And He was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”
- C. The coming of this kingdom had the following characteristics (see Lk. 24:44-49).
- D. All of these prophecies came true on the Pentecost following Jesus’ ascension.
- E. Jesus’ kingdom is the church. He died and shed His blood to purchase the church.
Compare Ac. 20:28; Rev. 5:9,10.
- F. May we continue to live and serve God in His kingdom, the church.

IV. **THIRD: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

- A. See Acts 1:4-8.
- B. The apostles still thought that Jesus’ kingdom was a physical one, in which He would overthrow the Romans and set up rule similar to that of David.
- C. But the power of the Holy Spirit would change their thinking. The apostles were to be God’s special witnesses that would tell the people of the saving power of the blood of X.
- D. When the apostles went about preaching the good news after Pentecost, they preached a spiritual kingdom. We need to be people who live by the things of the Spirit. Paul contrasts the life of the flesh and the life of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:16-26; esp. 16,17).
But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. [17] For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

V. **FOURTH: THE ASSURANCE OF HIS COMING AGAIN.**

- A. The text: Acts 1:9-11.
And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. [10] And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; [11] and they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”
- B. The last image of Jesus to be on the minds of the apostles was that of Him in the clouds. Just as they had seen Jesus ascend into heaven in the clouds, Jesus will one day descend from heaven in the clouds.
- C. Part of living the Xian life and preaching the word, is to prepare for X’s second coming. If we believe that X came once to be a sacrifice for sins, we must also believe that He is coming again to give eternal life (Heb. 9:28).
so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.
- D. Paul wanted us to have confidence in our salvation and to love X’s appearing (2Tim. 4:8).
in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- E. Even in His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of His returning to take us to a place He is preparing (see Jn. 14:1-6).
- F. As we walk this life may we be confident in X’s coming and be readying ourselves for that great event.

VI. **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Jesus emphasized four things as He departed for Heaven:
 1. The reality of Jesus’ resurrection.
 2. The coming of the spiritual kingdom, the church.
 3. The power of the HS in their-lives.
 4. The certainty of His coming again to take the faithful to heaven.
- B. Respond in the simplicity of your faith and obey Jesus as the X, the Messiah.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xian, erring Xians.