

MAY 12, 2024

"Don't Just Stand There"

Scripture: Acts 1:6-11



DON'T JUST STAND THERE

Ascension Sunday

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile physician, wrote this gospel between A.D. 63-70. It's considered to be a sequel to the Gospel of Luke which he also wrote. Luke writes about the birth and growth of the Christian church and covers the 30 years after Jesus was taken up into heaven.

CONTEXT

Today is Ascension Sunday which occurs 40 days after Easter. Ascension means the act of rising to an important position or a higher level. Here it refers to Jesus rising to heaven. The book of Acts begins where the gospels left off. As our scripture passage opens, the apostles are with Jesus (after his resurrection) asking him if the time has come to restore the kingdom to Israel.

ENCOURAGEMENT

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus spoke these words: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Jesus continues to be with us today through the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 1:6-11. What did the disciples (apostles) want to know?
2. What was Jesus' answer?
3. What does the idea of God's timetable mean to you? Can you trust it? (verse 7)

4. Contrast the idea of a messiah's kingdom that would conquer and free Israel from Roman oppression versus the spiritual kingdom that Jesus, the Messiah, spoke about.
5. Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and when that happened what would they receive?
6. How do you experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
7. What were the disciples charged to do? (See verse 8 and Matthew 28:18-20)
8. Do you ever run ahead of God's plans?
9. How do you or how might you spread the good news?
10. What was Jesus doing as he ascended into heaven according to Luke 24:50-51?
11. Why was it important for the disciples to see Jesus taken up into heaven?
12. How did the 2 men in white robes say that Jesus would return from heaven someday?
13. Read Revelation 1:7. Who will see Jesus?
14. What does Matthew 24:36 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 say about Jesus' return?
15. What did Jesus do after ascending? Read Mark 16:19.
16. Jesus will return one day but until then, we have a lot of work to do. What can we do to build His kingdom?

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