



**The Ascension of Jesus:  
Transitioning from Past to Future  
(Luke 24:44-53)**



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**I. Summarizing the past (vv. 44-46)**

**II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)**

**III. Celebrating the present (vv. 50-53)**

# I. Summarizing the past (vv. 44-46)

## A. Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament (v. 44)

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

# I. Summarizing the past (vv. 44-46)

## B. The Holy Spirit is needed to understand the Scriptures (v. 45)

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

*In the Upper Room:*

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

(John 20:21)

# I. Summarizing the past (vv. 44-46)

## C. Jesus summarizes the prophecies (v. 46)

<sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

- But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5)
- on the third day he will raise us up (Hosea 6:2b)

## **II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)**

### **A. Proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v.47)**

<sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

## II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)

### A. Proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v.47)

<sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name [i.e. “the Christ,” “the Messiah,” “the Anointed One”] to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

-- John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4)

-- “I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6)



# *Repentance*

<sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Repentance:** “Literally, this means ‘turning back’. It is widely used in Old Testament and subsequent Jewish literature to indicate both a personal turning away from sin and Israel’s corporate turning away from idolatry and back to YHWH. Through both meanings, it is linked to the idea of ‘return from exile; if Israel is to ‘return’ in all senses, it must ‘return’ to YHWH.”

--Tom Wright, *Luke for Everyone*

# *Aphesis*

<sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

- “The word ***aphesis***, translated “forgiveness” in verse 47, describes John’s mission in [Luke] 3:3 and Jesus’ mission in 4:18 (there **translated “release”**). Jesus has carried out his mission by proclaiming **release of sins** to the outcasts. (The noun *aphesis* occurs in Luke only at 1:77; 3:3; 4:18; and 24:47. The phrase is always “release [or “forgiveness”] of sins”

--Robert C. Tannehill, *Luke*

## II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)

### B. As you heard Jesus proclaim (v. 48)

<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

--Empirical experience plus internal illumination

## II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)

### C. But wait to receive the Holy Spirit first (v. 49)

<sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

--When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

(Acts 2:1-4)

## II. Seeing the future (vv. 47-49)

### C. But wait to receive the Holy Spirit first (v. 49)

--until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,  
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field (Isaiah 32:15)

--“And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28)

# III. Celebrating the present (vv. 50-53)

## A. Jesus leads us and blesses us (v. 50)

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

--Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them  
(Leviticus 9:22)

# III. Celebrating the present (vv. 50-53)

## B. Jesus now reigns from on high (v. 51)

<sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

--“Jesus blessed the disciples he had sent out on mission. The Gospel, therefore, ends by elevating three of the most characteristic of God’s actions. God has been experienced by the community of faith as **the One who saves, sends, and blesses.**”

--Alan Culpepper, *The Gospel of Luke*

# III. Celebrating the present (vv. 50-53)

## C. Worship of the heavenly Lord leads to joy (v. 52)

<sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

-- <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11)



# III. Celebrating the present (vv. 50-53)

## D. Joy leads to witness (v. 53)

<sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing [and praising] God.

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness! . . .

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

--Psalm 150:1-2, 6

(Discipleship ends in joy!)

# Let Us Pray

