

(Luke 24:49-53, NIV84)

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God."

As I think on Christ's ascension I am reminded of something that happened years ago when my son Lucas was very young. He had just come home from Church where he had heard the story of Christ's ascension, and he was asked what Jesus was doing "up there" [in heaven]. Lucas replied: "He's fixin' things." It was an insightful answer then and it still holds true today.

As we think on the extraordinary circumstances of the times in which we live, we're asking ourselves: When will this end? How will this end? What will be the long-lasting ramifications of this? I do not pretend to know the answers to any of these questions. It's probably pretty safe to say that no human being knows the answers to these questions.

Take heart in this: our Lord Jesus is ascended to the right hand of His heavenly Father and is in absolute control of the entire universe. He knows the how, who, what, when and where of every question, including those that are tumbling around in our minds right now. He will work all these things out for the good of His Church. Rest in that assurance.

In a constant state of repair with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

May 12

The Ascension of Jesus

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51

The above passage is taken from the closing verses of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Luke, also known as the beloved physician, was not one of the original 12 disciples of Christ, but was a close friend, companion, and coworker of St. Paul. He is the author both of the gospel which bears his name and of the Book of Acts.

In the opening verses of his gospel he tells us that it is his purpose to put in writing "those things which are most surely believed among us" and which have been attested by "eyewitnesses". Among those events "most surely believed" and reported by eyewitnesses was the miraculous ascension of Christ into heaven -- recorded both in Luke's gospel and in the Book of Acts.

For our devotional purpose, let us linger on just four words in the text quoted above, namely, the words "while he blessed them". In these few words we have the last picture of Christ to be seen by mortal men. The "last picture" of a departed loved one is frequently treasured as one of special significance. How fitting, then, that we dwell for just a moment on the last picture of our Savior which Luke has shared with us.

"While he blessed them." His arms outstretched in loving benediction, Christ is gradually taken from this earth and "carried into heaven". No picture could be more appropriate or more expressive of our Lord's total mission here on earth. He had come to bless! He had come to "preach the Gospel to the poor, . . . to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives . . . to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19). By his suffering, death, and resurrection, he had accomplished his mission; and so, as if to leave a final signature, he departs with arms outstretched in benediction. As we contemplate the wonder of his glorious ascension, our prayer must be:

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps for ever
And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.