

A Parting with Purpose
Acts 1.1-11

Introduction:

I. The P_____ of the Ascension

A. Jesus departure provides a r_____ to glory

B. Jesus departure provides a r_____ for us

II. The P_____ of the Ascension

A. We witness with the p_____ of the Holy Spirit

B. We witness to a p_____ Jesus Christ

C. We witness in an outward p_____

III. The P_____ of the Ascension

A. Jesus will be c_____ back

B. Jesus will c_____ all things

Conclusion:

Questions for reflection or small group discussion

- When did you first learn about the ascension of Jesus Christ?
- What two forty day periods of time "bookend" the life of Christ?
- What essential truth ends with the ascension of Jesus Christ?
- What do we mean when we say ascension does not represent a "change in location" but a "change of state"?
- What is the significance of the clouds?
- What is verified by Christ's ascension (Hebrews 10.11-14)?
- What benefit does the ascension provide us in 1 John 2.1?
- What benefit does the ascension provide us in John 14.1-4?
- What benefit does the ascension provide us in 1 Peter 3.22?
- What last command does Jesus give the disciples (and us with them) at his ascension?
- Why do we need the Holy Spirit's help to fulfill this command?
- Who is to be the focus of this command?
- How is the command a "table of contents" in the book of Acts?
- Do you believe in the return of Jesus Christ? What difference might this belief (or unbelief) make in your daily walk of faith?
- Is your view of history "linear" or "cyclic"? What difference does that make in how you think of what happens in the world?
- Have you prepared for the "end of the age" and the "new heaven and the new earth"?
- Should we more clearly celebrate the ascension? If so, how?