

Recap of 2/14/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 1:8-14):

1. Acts 1:8 lays out the priority of evangelism (witness) for believers. We are “a people who believe in Jesus, whose first priority must be to give clear witness to Him.” (Richards)

2. They were to begin in Jerusalem. The natural tendency would have been to flee Jerusalem, a place of danger for them.

-“...there was a divine purpose in having the witness begin at Jerusalem; it may have been a place of danger but it was the place of widest possible influence. So as servants of Christ ‘we have all to ask, not where we shall be most at ease, but where we shall be most efficient as witnesses for Christ, and to remember that very often the presence of adversaries makes the door ‘great and effectual.’” (Erdman)

3. Jesus is taken up from the midst of the disciples in the Ascension. Two angels tell them that Jesus will return in the same way he went away: personally, visibly, bodily, in view of observers, in a cloud, to the Mount of Olives (Revelation 1:7; Zechariah 14:4), to defeat His enemies and set up the Millennial and eternal kingdom.

4. The implications of the Ascension:

-It was the conclusion of Jesus’ earthly ministry in bodily form.

-He was exalted to the right hand of God the Father where He carries on a ministry of intercession (Hebrews 1:3; 4:14-16; 8:1; 12:2; 1 John 2:1).

-Jesus’ work would continue through His disciples.

-It was necessary for Jesus’ to depart so the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7).

5. The disciples all joined together in the Upper Room to pray, a common occurrence in the early Church. They prayed both individually and together.

-Acts 2:42, they devoted themselves to prayer

-Acts 4:23-31, they prayed for boldness to witness.

-Acts 6:4, prayer was a central ministry of the Twelve.

-Acts 12:1-11, they prayed for Peter when he was imprisoned.

-Acts. 13:1-3, they prayed before sending off Barnabas and Saul on the first missionary journey.