

INTRODUCTION

1. As Jesus' disciple, would you prefer to have the incarnate Jesus here w/ us today or to be indwelt by the HS?
2. Lk 24:50-53 v51 *He parted from them!?! [A 1:9]. Wouldn't Jesus departure spell the destruction of discipleship? Yet they worship w/ great joy? What has happened to explain such dramatic change in disciples?*

1st: The Disciple's Faith was Informed by Jesus' Teaching

1. Jesus' 40-day module course on how to interpret the OT.
2. Lk 24:30-32 Jesus *blessed* bread - disciple's eyes *opened* - they recognized Him. Recalled Jesus *explaining [opened]* Script. Jesus *opens* Scripture to them & *opened* them to Scripture.
3. Summary of module course - Lk 24:44-49 *opened* their *minds* in order to *understand* His words + OT in view of His death & res. [A 1:1-3 by HS]
4. The disciple's faith was informed & matured.

2nd: The Disciple's Faith was Informed by Jesus' Blessing

1. The final scene has elements of temple worship: Jesus as priest who blesses worshipping people. Sacrifice is accepted & Lord is w/ His people.
2. Num 6:23-27 *bless* [3x] - *keep, be gracious, give peace* [shalom].
 - i. *make His face to shine - lift up His countenance - invoke My name* => YHWH personally present w/ His people in covenant faithfulness.
 - ii. YHWH's *name* - Exo 34:6-8 in relation to sin: forgives & punishes. Revelation of *the name* is received in prostrate worship - v8.
 - a. Morality of IInd & IIIrd c. Exo 20:4-7
 - b. *invoke YHWH's name* as blessing: revelation of YHWH as gracious [Ex 34:6-7a]. Blessing: forgiven & given Shalom.

3. Speech-Act Theory: 1] say smthg understandable [locution]; 2] express intent [illocution]; produce the effect in hearer [perlocution]. Jesus blessing effects blessing!

3rd: The Disciple's Faith was Expressed in Worship

1. Lk 24:50-53 apostles respond as recipients of blessing: they *worship* = bow prostrated in reverence: *great joy* - temple *praise*[bless] God.
 - i. Recipients of blessing fall down, prostrated in worship.
 - ii. Luke ends w/ "God" - God is w/ His NCov people to bless them.
2. But - isn't Jesus' ascension His departure - absence? Blessing assures of God's presence. How the God w/ us if Jesus, the Lord, departs?
3. v49 - the Holy Spirit [Jn 13-17]. With HS, Jesus is w/ disciples.
 - i. Rom 8:9-11 - Triune God is w/ you - Jn 14:23; 2C 13:14.
4. Lk 24:52 *worshiping Him* - Jesus. Jn 20:28: *My Lord & my God!*
5. This is the 1st time disciples corporately *worship* Jesus. They have come to perceive Jesus' deity as divine Son of God. Our distinctive - 1C 12:3
6. *Jesus is Lord. v52 they worshiped Him - v53 in the temple praising God.*

Applic #1: Let Us be Sure that Our Faith is Biblical

1. We are confessional Church & our creed is informed by Scripture. We confess *the faith* - Biblical truth.
2. JC Ryle: the cause of Christian's discomfort is ignorance/confusion of Scripture & failure to practice obedience to Scripture. Trust & obey.
3. Is your faith biblical? Is your creed centered on the risen Christ?

Applic #2: Let Us Express our Faith in the Privilege of Worship

THE ASCENSION: JESUS' PRESENCE - Luke 24:50-53

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1. As recipients of Jesus' priestly blessing, we are given His presence: the Holy Spirit. His face shines on us - shalom.
2. Let us join the disciples in that first gathering for corporate worship of our God & Savior: Jesus Christ. Let us live w/ Him as His blessed people.