

## Ascension - C - 1

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53

*Why are you standing there looking at the sky?* This is what the mysterious two men dressed in white - angels of God - ask the disciples after they witness Jesus Ascending. How often do we look towards something that has gone away. This may be an old plan, a dream, a person who has passed away, a past life that we used to have. But, something moving away like that is not always bad. Maybe something new needs to take its place.

This was true when Jesus died on the cross. The old life that the disciples had expected had gone away - but only by this passing would the even better thing of the resurrection happen. Now he goes away again. He goes to heaven prepare a place for them - and us - He goes so that all those joined to his body could enter heaven with Him. But they did not see this and - like we are prone to do - stand there being upset about how their plans were not working out. Jesus wants us to eye observant of the better things that come when our plans go south. Then He send us like he sent them *to the ends of the earth* to let people know to have faith in God. We can feel we have nothing to share, because we haven't looked for the turnaround God has achieved, we can be disappointed when God gives us a direction we don't want to go, we may feel that God isn't giving any directions at all.

We may not think of ourselves as witnesses - but we are supposed to be, we may not think of ourselves as people that God has given a special relationship to - but we are. We can sit paralyzed for years not following God's law or the messages God sends because it is not what we were expecting. How many times did I see my plans not become fulfilled - but God was always preparing something better than I had planned. If we see God pull away our plan and then not look for the opening God is making - we will miss the path God is laying out to better things. If that's where you're at I say: *why are you standing there looking at the sky?* Don't look towards where you wanted things to go, don't be paralyzed waiting for things to reverse themselves from what happened that you cannot change, but rather move forward. Jesus will send the help if we remain faith fun and joined to Him. He says to the Apostles today: *behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.* When we can turn away from lamenting over things that cannot change, we can then discover the pathway that God has laid out for us in the Body of Jesus. A pathway not just to get through this life, but a pathway that leads to joining with God in heaven.