

Sunday theme – **Ascension – the next chapter****Read Acts 1: 3 – 11**

We learn from this passage that Jesus appeared to the disciples (and others) on several occasions during the forty days between resurrection and ascension, but Luke chooses to detail just one; the conversation just prior to the ascension.

1. The command in verse 4 is to not leave Jerusalem (until) the gift of the Holy Spirit is given.

1a. If Jesus had been addressing our church rather than the disciples, what could we learn about our ministry and anything we propose doing?

1b. Is it possible to wait too long for the 'power' of the Holy Spirit (verse 8) before you actually do anything?

1c. What checks and processes are there to avoid either moving too soon, or waiting too long?

Read John 21: 4 - 14

2. Jesus, in his resurrection body, is not always recognised, even by his close friends. Interestingly, there is no description of his face or what clothes he wears. The resurrection body has properties that we understand (can eat) but also properties we don't (can pass through doors/walls). The Bible teaches that we will be 'bodily resurrected' (1 Corinth 15: 35ff).

2a. How do you think this will work?

2b. Do you see any parallel between not recognising the resurrected Jesus and the teaching in Matthew 25: 37-40?

3. Note that (verse 9) Jesus already had fish and did not need some from the disciples catch. We Christians can fall into the trap of 'doing it all', of 'organising everything'. 'unless we change the world it won't get changed', 'He has no hands but our hands'.

3a. In what sense does God 'need us', and in what sense does he not?

3b. What reasons could there be for Jesus directing them to where fish could be caught?

4. The disciples were surprised that the 'stranger' knew where the fish could be found, surprised by Jesus appearing on the shore, surprised not to recognise their dear Lord.

4a. Can you recount any incidents where you have been surprised by Jesus?

4b. Have you dared to tell any non-Christian about witnessing Jesus' presence in something?

(Bible used = NIV 2011 translation)

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