

Luke

See Jesus

“Time For Me To Fly”

Luke 24:44-53

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / July 21, 2024

Luke 24:44-53 “Then He said to them, ‘These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them.⁵¹ While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You need to know that Jesus is the fulfillment of every Messianic prophecy.

Luke 24:44-45 “Then He said to them, ‘These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...”

A. Conservatively speaking, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 Messianic prophecies during His earthly ministry.

1. He came through the line of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:16).
2. He came through the line of David (2 Sam. 7).
3. He was of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Rev. 5:5).
4. He was born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14).
5. He was born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2).
6. He was betrayed by a close and trusted friend (Psa. 41:9).
7. He was beaten, spat upon, and His beard was plucked (Isa. 50:6; Mic. 5:1).
8. He was crucified & His clothing was gambled for by soldiers (Psa. 22).
9. He was pierced (Zech. 12:10).
10. His death was vicarious (Isa. 53).
11. He rose from the dead (Isa. 53:10; Psa. 16:8-11).

II. Jesus’ ascension is probably more important than you think it is.

Luke 24:50-53 “And He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them.⁵¹ While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.”

9 Reasons Christ’s Ascension Is A Really Big Deal

1. Jesus’ mission was accomplished, so now He could go home (John 19:30).
2. Jesus wouldn’t be limited by the limitations He embraced in coming to earth (Phil. 2:7-8).

3. Since Jesus left, He could prepare a heavenly home for all Christians (John 14:1-3).
4. Jesus' bodily ascension modeled for us His bodily return (Acts 1:11).
5. Since Jesus left, He became the sovereign head over the church (Eph. 1:20-23).
6. Jesus' ascension signaled Jesus' triumph over the works of Satan (1 John 3:8).
7. Since Jesus left, the Holy Spirit could come (John 7:39; 16:7).
8. It signaled Jesus' giving the work of ministry to believers (1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-13).
9. It marked the passing of the work of evangelism to Christians just like you (Luke 24:47).

III. Jesus left a lot of work for us to do, and He gave us the power to do it!

Luke 24:46-49 “And said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’”

Ephesians 4:11-16 “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

1 Peter 4:10-11 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Our journey through the Gospel of Luke began on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Were you with us from the beginning? How has life changed between then and now? What have you seen God do? What’s better? What’s harder?
2. Pastor Peter said “Christianity isn’t a blind faith. It’s a faith in the sufficiency of the evidence.” How has your faith been strengthened by gaining an understanding of fulfilled prophecies and other important biblical truths?
3. Do you typically think about the ascension of Jesus as a really big deal? Why or why not?
4. Review the “9 Reasons Christ’s Ascension Is A Really Big Deal.” Which of those hadn’t you associated with Christ’s ascension?
5. When have you seen the Lord use someone else in your life? When have you been used to impact someone else?