

WHY STAND YE GAZING

ACTS 1

Text: Acts 1:11

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¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Introduction:

We have just read in our text this morning of Jesus' last moment on earth. He begins to be questioned about restoring the kingdom. However His response to them wasn't what they really expected. Instead of talking with them concerning the kingdom, He basically told them that it wasn't any of their concern.

His advice to them in regards to their concern, is still His advice for us today. His advice to them was as well as ours today is that we are to be witnesses unto to Him through out the whole world.

After He gives them this advice Jesus then ascended into Heaven in a cloud. The Bible goes on to say that as Jesus ascended up into Heaven that those that He had just spoken to were gazing up into the heavens, scanning the sky for a last look at Jesus, and there

appeared two men dressed in white and they ask a most important question. A question that I want us to look at and consider today, "Why stand ye gazing into Heaven?"

1. THEY AS WELL AS WE MUST STOP GAZING TO OBEY THE LORD (v. 4)

(Acts 1:4) "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."

A. They had been told to tarry in Jerusalem

1. They were not now in Jerusalem.

Illustration:

By the way don't get in your mind that you'll serve God where ever that you want to. I believe that God has a specific place or location for you to carry out His will and serve Him.

2. They must leave where they are and go to Jerusalem.

Illustration:

I believe that God has a Jerusalem for us all we must do is get there.

3. When they arrive great things will happen.

Illustration:

When we arrive at our Jerusalem, great things will happen.

B. Some here today need to find the will of God for their life.

1. The will of God is laid out in the Word of God.

a. God's will for the lost is salvation

(2 Pet 3:9 KJV) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2. Others know the will of God, but are like these gazing Christians, and have not begun to obey.

3. Notice when these disciple obeyed the first directions, other directions followed.

Illustration:

You will not always know every detail concerning God's will, especially those latter ones, until you have first done those first given.

4. We like them, must stop gazing and get going!

2. THEY AS WELL AS WE MUST STOP GAZING AND GO TO A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING PRAYER MEETING (v. 14)

(Acts 1:14) "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

A. Notice:

1. They went to Jerusalem (v.12)

(Acts 1:12) "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey."

2. They went to the Upper Room (v. 13)

(Acts 1:13) "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James."

3. The prayer meeting in the upper room. (v. 14)

(Acts 1:14) "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

4. They put away all their differences. (v. 14)

(Acts 1:14) "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

Illustration:

Their differences were not doctrine. Doctrine must never be compromised.

5. They waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

(Acts 2:1-4) "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. {2} And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. {3} And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. {4} And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

3. THEY AS WELL AS WE MUST STOP GAZING AND START FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION (v. 8)

(Acts 1:8) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

A. They were to be His witnesses ... so are we

1. Evangelism is the missing ingredient in churches today.
2. We must return to the greatest task on earth.

B. The Evangelism explosion in Jerusalem.

1. All involved (Acts 2:4)

(Acts 2:4) "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

2. Peter's sermon (Acts 2) 3000 saved

(Acts 2:41) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

3. Evangelism continues though out the book of Acts.

(Acts 4:4) "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."

(Acts 4:32) "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

(Acts 5:14) "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)"

4. What are you doing to evangelize your community, and the world?

(Matthew 28:18-20) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

4. THEY AS WELL AS WE MUST STOP GAZING AND LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST RETURN (v. 11)

(Acts 1:11) "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

A. "This same Jesus" will return

1. The One who cared for the lost and dying
2. The One who wept over hurting people
3. The One who died and rose again.
4. The Son of God

5. Jehovah
6. I am
7. Alpha & Omega
8. Beginning & End
9. First & Last
10. The Word
11. A Man approved of God.
12. A Servant
13. Jesus a Name Above all Names
14. Lamb of God
15. The Good Shepherd
16. The Way
17. The Truth
18. The Life
19. Tree of Life

20. The True Vine
21. Bread of Life
22. Rose of Sharon
23. Lily of the Valley
24. The Light of the world
25. The bright and Morning Star.
26. Strong Tower
27. Refuge from the storm
28. Fourth man walking in the fire.
29. Rock of Ages
30. The Foundation
31. A Stone
32. Precious Stone
33. A Ransom
34. The Mediator

35. The Redeemer
36. The Faithful Witness
37. The Amen
38. The Just One
39. The Holy One
40. The Prince of Peace
41. The Author and Finisher of Faith
42. The Deliver
43. The Lion of the tribe of Judah.
44. The Sheild
45. The Resurrection
46. King of Kings
47. Lord of Lords

B. When He returns we must stand before Him.

C. When He returns we must give an account of our stewardship.

1. Stewardship involves more than money. It does involve money, but it also involves our time talents, and our opportunities to serve and or to witness.

D. There is no time for gazing ... the time is short.

(John 4:35 KJV) Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Close:

Why stand ye gazing? There is no time to stand gazing, other than to see the need, which drives us to meet the need. We need to get on the move, seizing the moments to serve our coming Lord.

Vance Havner, the North Carolina preacher born in 1901, and who preached for over 70 years, made this powerful statement, "We have no business living ordinary lives in such extraordinary times.

Let's stop just gazing!