

He Left...and They Were Happy!

1. **Because He Left Them with Work to Do**
2. **Because He Left Them with the Holy Spirit**
3. **Because He Left Them with the Promise to Return**

He Left...and They Were Happy!

- It took place 40 days after res. 40 days before this (so ~mo/half ago), was Easter; J came back life; talked Mary, walked Em discs, appeared to frightened followers behind locked doors. And then during next 40 days, J out in public, preaching, teaching; one day even met with over 500 discs at same time. But now 40 days later, time had come J return heaven. On Mt Olives (not far Gethsem); as speaking, feet lift up off ground; starts float up into air; discs speechless, jaws dropped – watch as ascends (goes up) through clouds until they see him no more. **Vs. 51.** So he left them. But get this: they were happy re it! **Vs. 52-53.** So, left...happy. Seems cntr-int that Sav would go away, rejoice; leave, happy. Might think opp: stays, preaches/teaches more, good thing; leaves, make everyone sad.
- But that's not what J intended; not what happened either. No, when J ascended, left...happy. And so are we. Today we join in discs' joy, for # reasons – same reasons they happy.

Because He Left Them with Work to Do

- 1st, happy bec work do. **Vs. 46** (they'd seen); **vs. 47.** That was their job; had work to do. J leaving them with task of preaching gospel of forg, thru cruc/risen Son God, to all nations of world. This their asgmt. **Vs. 48** – not just in sense, saw what hap; but tell others what seen/heard. They'd seen mircls, heard preaching, exper gospel. Now their job to tell world. Daunting, exciting; they had work to do.
- So do we. Xp's ascn makes us happy, bec he's given us same work do, too. When says **vs. 48**, inclds us, bec even though never seen J with our eyes, we've seen in his Word. And we can tell others what we've seen in God's Word – what we've seen J do, heard J say – everything he's done to save world. **Vs. 47a** – we play role in that; that's our asgmt, just as much as was discs' asgmt – to share gospel, evangelize, witness re J. He's left us work do. I don't know re you: if anyone I want work for, it's J! I want “take task gives gladly, let work pleasure be.” Joyous work J given us do; we're happy do it.

Because He Left Them with the Holy Spirit

- Another reason discs happy when J ascended: left them with HS. **Vs. 49a** (HS); **vs. 49b** – took place day Pent. This coming Sun: Pent – 50, 10; sound wind, tongues fire, foreign languages, 3k baptized; J poured out on his Church the HS. Here today, J promising to do just that – **vs. 49.**
- In fact, J had been promising send HS for quite some time. Back in **Jn 14:16-17a, 26.** When asc'd, yes left them; but wasn't leaving all alone. He was about to send them HS on Pent, to strengthen, empower, bless. That's why discs happy.
- Why we're happy, too – bec J still sends HS to us, as well. Whenever we baptism; HC; church; Bible – HS powerfully at work within us. HS's job: create/strengthen Xian faith in human heart. Tool uses: MofG (G,W&S). And so, when we immerse ourselves in W&S, J pours HS on us. If you are Xian, your Xian faith is direct result of HS's work within you. That's gift from God, something to rejoice over! J left us with HS!

Because He Left Them with the Promise to Return

- Finally, when J returned to heaven that ascn day, discs rejoiced bec J left them with prom to return. I'm turn **Ac 1:11**, angels. J promised to return; will come back! And when returns, will (in own words) sep sheep from goats. All goats/unbelvs, J will sentence to eternal death in hell - which makes his return sound pretty scary. But all sheep of Good Shep, everyone believes in Xp as Sav, J will welcome into eternal life. That's what makes J's return a happy prom that we look forward to seeing.

- And J had made this promise before. **Jn 14:1-3**. He promises to return, and bring us home heaven. He's preparing room for us in Father's house, family estate – bec by faith in Xp we are children of heavenly Father, bro/sis of Xp, heirs of eternal life – and our bro J is getting heaven ready for us. That's why he ascended; what's what doing, right now, as governs world, rules his church – he's getting heaven ready for us. And when he returns, someday (soon?), he'll bring us there. If that's not a reason to rejoice, I don't know what is!

Ascension – A Happy Event

- The ascn of J is happy event. J even once told discs: **Jn 14:28**. J did what came to do; then went back home, to get things ready for us. And while we may wish we could see J, hug J, talk to J face/face (which can't do bec he left), that's alright – bec left us with work to do; and so we're going do it. Going work hard, in our church and in own lives, to share gospel with others. And he left us with HS. So going to come church (not take summer off), so can be filled with HS. And he left us with promise to return. So we're going believe that promise and look forward to his return with great joy.
- The ascn of J is happy event. Yes he left, but discs were happy; so are we – bec even though J in heaven, we know J always with us; and know someday we'll see him again.

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

John 14:16-17a, 26

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

John 14:28

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father.