

“Beginning From Jerusalem”

Luke 24:36-49

“He Rules Over the Nations”

The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts form a two-volume work by a singular author. The author was God working in and through the Physician Luke. The Gospel is volume one and the Book is volume two. Acts 1:8 picks up where Luke 24:44-49 ends. Luke 24:47, 48 are interesting to me as is Acts 1:8.

Luke 24:47 tells us that we begin in Jerusalem. Acts 1:8 says it is both Jerusalem and in Judea, etc. There is no isolation only sequence. It is not either this or that, but this and that. I would like us to consider Luke 24:44-49 and note how “Missions begins at home.”

I. Our Mission stresses the reality of the resurrection (vv. 36-43).

Throughout these verses there is constant reference made to the physical nature of the event. Luke speaks of “beholding, handling, and seeing.” He refers to Jesus eating before them (v. 43).

What significance does this idea have for us as a part of our mission?

Without His resurrection from the dead, He would not have said, “All authority is given to me in heaven and on the earth” (Matt. 28:18).

II. Our Mission stresses the necessity of the cross (vv. 44-47a).

“It was to the cross that all the Scriptures looked forward. The cross was not forced on God; it was not an emergency measure when all else had failed and when the scheme of things had gone wrong.”

The cross is what forms for us the content of our message. Without it, we have nothing to say (Gal. 6:13, 14, 1 Cor. 2:1, 2).

The cross forms the content of all we say. In all preaching, we must continue to ask, “Where’s the cross?”

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III. Our Mission stresses the urgency of the task (vv. 47b-48).

The message we have received is the only message that can...

- Reconcile the alienated
- Quench the thirsty
- Satisfy the hungry
- Calm the irritated
- Steady the agitated
- Raise the dead
- Sooth the afflicted
- Secure the fearful and
- Forgive the guilty

Without Christ what will the unbelieving do? There is no hope for heaven without believing on the person and work of Christ. We are to make disciples of all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem, but not stopping there.

The message we have is not controlled by gender, race, position, prosperity, or poverty. This message is to be preached to all people, everywhere, at all times.

IV. Our Mission stresses the secret of His power (v. 49, Acts 1:8)

The mission of world conquest is not capable of being accomplished in our flesh. It is only capable of being performed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is not something we can delegate to a thousand good programs. This is our responsibility, our mission, our passion. This is our Jerusalem. Friend, Missions begins at home! We must strengthen our men and women and family units. There is no option here. There is only to be movement forward.

And though Missions begins at home, it does not stop here. It is for all the nations and we begin from our Jerusalem.