

## **His Story, My Story - Session 8**

### **Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit and Ascends into Heaven (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:3-11)**

#### **Sharing exercise**

What would you say have been two turning points in your life?

#### **Story**

I am going to tell you a story from the Bible three times. The first time, I want us to imagine the story. The second time, I want us to remember the story. And the third time, you are going to help me tell the story. Listen carefully because you are going to have to help me retell it, and we'll also talk some more about the story afterwards.

#### **First time**

The risen Jesus appeared to his followers on quite a few occasions. He appeared to Thomas in a room in Jerusalem. He appeared on a beach beside the lake. He appeared on a hill in Galilee. One time he appeared to over 500 people. He did this over a period of 40 days. And, of course, he proved to them that he was actually alive.

Many of the disciples came from Galilee up north, but one day they were in Jerusalem down south. And the resurrected Jesus was eating with them. He told them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised. Remember I told you about this before. John the Baptizer baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

He said: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, testifying on my behalf. You will tell people about me, first here in Jerusalem, then beyond to Judea and Samaria, and finally to the farthest places on earth.'



Notice two things there. 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.' That happened soon after, on the Day of Pentecost. And then, 'You will tell people about me, first here in Jerusalem, then beyond to Judea and Samaria, and finally to the farthest places on earth.' That happened too.

They were on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. Or they went there soon after—we can't be sure. Anyway, they were on the Mount of Olives when the disciples saw Jesus lifted into the sky. He disappeared into a cloud! In Israel's history, God had used clouds as symbols of his glory and presence. And Jesus went up into a cloud.

The disciples stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! (Angels often wore white!) They said, 'You Galileans, why are you

standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!

Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

## Second time

The risen Jesus appeared to his followers on quite a few occasions.



He appeared to Thomas in a room in Jerusalem.



He appeared on a beach beside the lake



He appeared on a hill in Galilee. One time he appeared to over 500 people. He did this over a period of 40 days. And, of course, he proved to them that he was actually alive.

Many of the disciples came from Galilee up north, but one day they were in Jerusalem, down south. And the resurrected Jesus was eating with them.

He told them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised.'



'Remember I told you about this before. John the Baptizer baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

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but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'

### Third time

OK this time you get to tell the story. Let's tell it together as a group.

### Discussion

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this story?
3. What can we learn about people from the characters in this story? (sometimes I ask, what choices did the person have? What do we learn about them from the choice they made?)
4. What can we learn about God/Jesus from this story?
5. This week, what do you want to change in your life because of this story? State your answer in the form "This week I want to..."
6. Who else needs to hear this story?



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