

Apr 30, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

After His resurrection Jesus gave His disciples this promise: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

How thankful I am that You remain always by my side, Jesus! I need You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever

(John 14:16 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 20, 2021)

Series: Jesus Calls Us

UNIT 3: The Birth of the Church

NEXT WEEK

The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-8, 14-24, 37-40)

Jesus Makes a Promise Acts 1:1-11

Lesson Background and Introduction

We may find it surprising that a Gentile who was not an apostle wrote more of the New Testament than anyone else. We're talking about Luke the physician (Colossians 4:14). Luke's Gospel and the book of Acts have about two scrolls' worth of material, making a physical division necessary. Luke did this thoughtfully by dividing the books into his account of Jesus and his account of the church. The bridge between the two is the ascension of Jesus, found in Luke 24:50-53 and repeated in Acts 1:6-9. Careful study of these two books shows that Luke maintained high standards for accuracy. Where we can corroborate his historical details, he has proven to be completely reliable. For example, Luke refers to the magistrates of the city of Thessalonica by the Greek word politarchas (Acts 17:6, 8), a term not found elsewhere in ancient literature. This had led earlier scholars to wonder if Luke made up this word. However, archaeological excavations have since found inscriptions that use this title, confirming Luke's attention to accurate detail.

When discussing the Great Commission given by Jesus, most Christians will think of Matthew 28:19-20, where Jesus said, Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Luke's version of this is found in Acts 1:8, which could be summarized as, "Go to the ends of the earth and be my witnesses." There is no conflict between these versions. They are different ways of commanding the same thing. In both cases, the message is not confined to a small group of men who were physically present at Jesus' ascension, men who died some 2,000 years ago. Rather, these commands also apply to Christians today. If we are truly Christ's disciples, we will be involved in spreading the saving testimony about Jesus to all the people of the earth. For some Christians, this involves strategic relocation to interact with people groups in countries that have no Christian witness. For other Christians, it means funding and supporting such cross-cultural evangelism. For all Christians, it involves ensuring that talk matches walk (Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7; etc.). The New Testament teaches that all Christians are to be involved in making disciples. This is to be motivated by our love for those who do not know Jesus, as well the need to obey his commands as our Lord (John 14:15). Jesus went to the cross out of his love for the world and his obedience to his Father's will. We should do no less.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Setting for the Promise (Acts 1:1-3)

Jesus provided orders for His chosen to do while He is away (1-2)

- Orders to be faithful in stewardship (Matt 24:45-46)
- Orders to watch and be prepared (Luke 12:37)
- Orders to have the right motives for actions (1 Cor 4:5)
- Orders to be holy (2 Pet 3:14)
- Orders to love one another (John 13:34-35)

Jesus provided proof of His resurrection (3)

- Proof to the disciples (Mark 16:11-14)
- Proof to the women (Luke 24:5-6)
- Proof to the Galileans (Acts 13:31)
- Proof to the Saints (1 Cor 15:3-8)
- Proof to the future witnesses (I John 1:1)

The Instructions Regarding the Promise (Acts 1:4-8)

Instructions to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (4-5)

- A baptism that was prophesied (Joel 2:28)
- A baptism that did take place at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- A baptism that is poured out on all believers (Acts 10:45)
- A baptism that symbolizes a good conscience (1 Pet 3:21)
- A baptism that provides a new life (Rom 6:4)
- A baptism that circumcises the old sinful nature (Col 2:11-12)

Instructions to not worry about God's timing (6-7)

- Because God's timing belongs to Him and Him only (Deut 29:29)
- Because God's timing is only known to God Himself (Matt 24:36)
- Because God's timing is determined by Himself (Acts 17:26)
- Because God's timing is when all things have been fulfilled (Eph 1:9-10)
- Because God's timing comes like a thief in the night (1 Thes 5:1-2)
- Because God's timing will come about in God's own time (1 Tim 6:13-15)

Instructions to utilize the power from the Holy Spirit (8)

- Power that comes from God (Zech 4:6)
- Power that strengthens faith (1 Cor 2:4-5)
- Power that is present when Saints are assembled (1 Cor 5:4)
- Power that strengthens the inner being (Eph 3:16)
- Power that is a gift from God (2 Tim 1:7)

The Preparations to Receive the Promise (Acts 1:9-11)

Make the most of every opportunity while waiting on Jesus to return (9-11)

- Seize the opportunity because the days are evil (Eph 5:16)
- Seize the opportunity because God instructed us to be wise (Col 4:5)
- Seize the opportunity because the day of salvation is nearer than we think (Rom 13:11)
- Seize the opportunity because we are instructed to do good while we can (Gal 6:10)
- Seize the opportunity because my days are limited (Ps 90:12)
- Seize the opportunity because even ants gather and stores for times of need (Prov 6:6-8)