

Introduction: There was a “game” last week. What were their eyes on ahead of the game? Text today teaches us to get the most important things in focus. Eyes on His Glory – Fixed on His Calling – Looking for His Return. Background:

Author? Luke – little debate from earliest days of the work.

Date? Written before the destruction of the temple and fall of Jerusalem in AD 70?

Likely written during reign of Flavius (69-96) - but hard to date precisely

Purpose: - Demonstrated that “the Way” is a way of peace.

- Shows the role/power of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling Christ’s mission

- Reveals salvation history, the culmination of a long process of divine revelation in God’s ruling and over-ruling in the affairs of men for deliverance of His own people

I. With Our Eyes Drawn Heavenward

A. His **Glory** is Exhibited – *He Is Exalted!! Crucifixion was followed by the Exaltation of Christ!* Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3

1. In a Glorified Body – the first fruits of the *Resurrection!*

a) In the Resurrection

- God vindicates Christ in his sacrifice for sins.

- Human nature (body and soul) are restored to original perfection and strength.

- He becomes the life giving Spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

b) Visited us with a “body of glory” - *A real body. NOTE: The Incarnation remains- Jesus keeps his resurrected body in heaven. He is still Jesus. Still the perfect God/man. He has a perfect, very real, material body. The Glory of Christ is in His permanent incarnate state.*

2. In the Ascension

a) It is bodily/physical.

b) His person is taken up to heaven – *a place, not a state.*

3. In a Supernatural Cloud

a) Transfiguration – Mark 9:7

b) Ascension – in the cloud?

c) His return (parousia) - Luke 21:27; Mark 14:62

d) *Showing forth His glory?* Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:10

B. His Exalted Rule is Established

1. His Kingdom is Spiritual - Not an earthly kingdom (John 18:36)

2. He Reigns from Heaven

a) He is Exalted to God’s right hand. Acts 2:32,33; Matthew 26:64 (cf. Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 10:12; Revelation 3:21)

b) Christ received the rule of government over the Church and the Universe!

I. With Our Eyes Drawn Heavenward (continued)

B. His Exalted Rule is Established

2. He Reigns from Heaven

c) He reigns as the Prophet , Priest and King of His people

- 1) As King – he rules and protects His church, *by His Spirit*.
- 2) As Priest – he continually presents his perfect, finished sacrifice to the Father as the basis for pardoning grace.
- 3) As Prophet – through the Holy Spirit, now given – he teaches us the truth, guides us in it, reveals the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:10

3. Now he can bestow his gift – the Holy Spirit

NOTE 1: Coming of the Spirit in fullness and power required the finished work of the atonement. John 18:14 His “going away” in the crucifixion seemed like a disaster – but it is the key to life!

NOTE 2: The coming of the Holy Spirit is not simply to give us comfort in the absence of the Savior – it is to complete His Presence with us, exhibiting his power and authority.

II. We Keep The Task In Focus

A. The Angels Bear Witness – To the task given

B. We Must Bear Witness – Our work is here!

III. Keeping Our Eyes On The Prize

A. We Look for His Physical, Visible Return – Acts 1:11 **NOTE: His return is not some invisible “spiritual” return that only the “initiated” can see. He comes with his angels and power. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8)**

B. We Work Until That Day Comes. The disciples had marching orders. They are standing orders.

IV. Conclusion

1. We need times of Gazing at the Son (of looking intently at the exalted, glorified savior.) Are you building that into your life?
2. We must be focused on the task at hand – living, serving, growing, loving, worshipping, ministering with the power that has been poured into us.
3. We must be looking, watching for His glorious return.

He Is coming Back!