

## **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A**

Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1: 17-23 and Mathew 28: 16-20

Today's Scriptures bridge two powerful moments: the end of Jesus' physical ministry on earth and the beginning of the Church's mission. In Acts, we see the disciples staring up at the sky. In Matthew, Jesus gives a command. In Ephesians, Paul prays for us to grasp the power behind it all. The question for us today is simple: **Are we still staring at the sky, or are we walking toward the world?**

Luke tells us that after forty days of teaching about the Kingdom of God, Jesus ascends into heaven. The disciples' reaction? They stand there, "looking intently upward." Two angels have to snap them out of it: ***"Why do you stand here looking at the sky?"***

- Friends, there is a real danger in being so focused on the "mountaintop" experience—on the memory of Jesus, the miracle of the Ascension, or even the promise of His return—that we miss the mission right in front of us. We can become spiritual spectators rather than active witnesses. Jesus didn't leave us with a telescope to gaze at heaven; He left us with a commission to transform the earth.

So, how do we stop staring and start walking? Paul answers that in Ephesians. He doesn't pray for us to try harder; he prays for us to **know** the power already at work in us.

**Notice the verbs:** God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, **far above** every ruler and authority. And then comes the staggering truth: That same power—the resurrection power that defeated the grave and conquered every spiritual force—is now at work **for us** who believe.

You don't overcome fear, addiction, or apathy by sheer willpower. You overcome by tapping into the endless dynamite of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension wasn't Jesus leaving us; it was Jesus being enthroned so that His power could flow **through** us. When you feel inadequate for the mission, remember: **The same Spirit who raised Christ lives in you.**

With that power, we return to Jesus' final words on the mountain. Some worshipped Him, Matthew notes, but **"some doubted."** Jesus gave the Great Commission anyway—not to the perfect, but to the willing.

Here is the heartbeat of our faith: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."** Notice the timing. He doesn't say this before the Ascension as a suggestion. He says this *after* securing all authority in heaven and on earth. The command is absolute, but the promise is total: **"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."**

- He didn't say, **"Go if you feel ready."** He said, **"Go, because I am with you."** The Ascension did not create distance; it created omnipresence. Because Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, He is not limited to one place in Galilee or Jerusalem. He is truly with you in your workplace, your kitchen, and your neighborhood.
- So, stop staring at the sky. Stop waiting for the perfect conditions. You have the **power** of the risen Christ (Ephesians) and the **presence** of the ascended Lord (Matthew). The only thing missing is your **yes**.
- Go home to your family. Go to your office. Go to your next conversation. Not just as a good person, but as a disciple with the authority of heaven behind you. Amen.

**Fr. Stany**

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