



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series
Supports Session 13: Commissions
Sermon Title: "Mission Ready?"
Passage: Luke 24:44-51

Connection to Luke 24

Even though Jesus was soon to ascend to the Father and end His earthly ministry, His mission would continue through His disciples. Jesus' instructions in verses 44-51 serve as a reminder that, in fulfillment of prophecy, the mission must continue, and they further explain what the mission would be and how His followers are to accomplish it.

Introduction/Opening

In the military, the term "mission ready" speaks of a fighting force that understands its mission, is logistically prepared, trained, equipped and motivated to accomplish the mission assigned.

While Jesus' first disciples may not have thought of themselves as a fighting force, Jesus knew they were. Their battle was not a military or physical battle, but rather a spiritual one. Shortly before His ascension, Jesus explained to His faithful disciples their mission and charged them to be mission ready. As His church today grapples with Jesus' final words, it must ask itself if it is mission ready for carrying out that same mission today.

Outline

1. The mission of the church is a Christ-centered mission (vv. 44-48).
 - a. Jesus reminded the disciples that while He was with them in His earthly ministry He had explained to them that all of Scripture—the Law, Prophets, and Psalms—spoke of and were about Him (v. 44).
 - b. As He explained their ongoing mission, Jesus pointed out that nothing had changed. They were witness to all of these things (v. 48) and were to continue proclaiming Jesus, primarily that He suffered, died, and rose from the grave and that forgiveness through repentance can be found only in Him.
 - c. They were not to get sidetracked on secondary issues, but to preach Christ crucified—to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness (1 Cor, 1:22-23).
 - d. The church of Jesus Christ exists in a world concerned about many issues. And while living out Christian faith will address many of these issues, the church must never allow those issues to become a primary concern. The church must preach Christ crucified for sinners!

2. The mission of the church is a globally-focused mission (v. 47).
 - a. Although the prophets said otherwise (Isa. 56:7), Jews had come to believe that, as God's chosen people, they were supremely loved by God and were His only people.
 - b. Certainly, God loved the Jews and His Messiah was the Jewish Messiah, but God also loved the entire world and sent His Son into the world to provide forgiveness for all nations.
 - c. Jesus explained that the mission of the church to proclaim repentance for forgiveness in His name must be a global mission to all nations. Intentionally, the disciples were to begin in Jerusalem, but continue proclaiming Jesus throughout the world to every nation. The church of Jesus cannot adopt the view of first century Jews but must be intentional to take the gospel of Jesus to every language, and tribe, and people, and nation.

3. The mission of the church is a Spirit-empowered mission (v. 49).
 - a. The task Jesus gave those first disciples was daunting. They may have wondered how they could ever accomplish it.
 - b. Jesus reminded them that the Father had promised to send a Helper—the Holy Spirit—who would make the impossible task possible.
 - c. The promised Spirit would be with them so they would not be alone (John 14:16-18). He would teach them all things and remind them of all Jesus had told them (John 14:26). He would convict the world of the sin of unbelief (John 16:8). He would give them a spiritual power and protection to fulfill their mission. They would be empowered from on high.

Conclusion

Today church is more mission ready than ever. The church has greater access to God's Word than ever before. More training resources exist than at any other time. Technology has made it possible to communicate broadly the good news of Jesus. Airplanes provide relatively quick and comfortable travel to far away lands. But with all of these available to the church, the mission has still not been completed. It seems the only hinderance to being fully mission ready is willingness. In obedience to Jesus' final words on earth, we must go!

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