

Introduction:

1. In Acts 1:10-11, an angel said to the apostles, “*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.*”
 - a. Jesus came in the flesh. We read about the incarnation of Jesus in John 1:1, 14.
 - b. Jesus came to give help to the descendants of Abraham, Hebrews 2:14-17.
 - c. Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week, John 20:1-9.
 - d. He ascended back into heaven where He is now our Great High Priest, Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - e. He has sat down at the right hand of God, and has all power and authority, Acts 2:34-35.
2. One day He will appear again. **But Not to...**
 - a. Establish His kingdom because the kingdom is here, Mark 9:1, Colossians 1:13.
 - b. Die again because He already was sacrificed, Hebrews 9:27-28.
 - c. Make the world a better place because the world will be destroyed, 2 Peter 3:10-11.
3. He’s coming back for the salvation of His people, Hebrews 9:27-28.
4. There is to be an eagerness concerning His return, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.
5. There are great blessings when we consider the second appearing of Jesus! How much have you thought about His second appearing this year? This may be a weird sermon to preach at the end of the year. We’re not guaranteed a New Year. But what we are guaranteed is the second appearing of Jesus. As I think about Acts 1:9-11, what did the apostles do after Jesus ascended into heaven awaiting His return? They give us a model of how to Eagerly AWAIT His return.

The Lesson:

I. They worshipped, Luke 24:50-53.

- A. They were privileged being able to see the ascension of Jesus.
 1. Men consider themselves honored to see a space craft launch into space. But nothing can compare to this ascension. Jesus went beyond the Sun and the Moon. He went to heaven!
 2. The natural response would be to worship Him, Luke 24:52.
 3. They devoted themselves to prayer, Acts 1:13-14.
 4. Christ our King is worthy of worship! He receives worship in heaven, Revelation 5:11-14.
- B. Jesus received worship from His apostles! He receives worship from the heavenly hosts.
 1. Will He receive worship from us?
 2. You want to know how to Eagerly Await the second appearing of Jesus? WORSHIP!
 3. His ascension and return put into focus what’s important! WORSHIP!
 4. COVID exposed a heart problem of apathy and indifference among many Christians. We MUST do better. EAGERLY AWAITING HIS SECOND appearing is not accumulating more stuff! It’s turning to Him more in WORSHIP! Our children must be taught this.

5. Today, let's devote ourselves to prayer. And tomorrow. And next week! As we do, the second appearing will become more real and exciting. If you have no interest, fear, or doubt regarding His appearing, it's an indication of you needing more time in prayer, in scriptures, and focused on His appearing.

II. They Were Obedient, Luke 24:49, 52

- A. Jesus told them to tarry in Jerusalem to wait power from the Holy Spirit.
 1. The apostles listened to Jesus. They returned to Jerusalem, Acts 1:12.
 2. They trusted in the words of Jesus! He had died just as He said. He had risen just as He said. There was no reason to doubt His instructions.
- B. Eagerly Awaiting the return of Jesus meant being obedient to Jesus!
 1. It means the same for us! Maybe that's why Peter said what he said in 1 Peter 1:13-25. Living hope, trials for a little while, love, inheritance, and revelation of Jesus is what Peter discusses!
 2. Three times Peter uses the term "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." We were obedient in obeying the gospel, and we must continue to be obedient children during our time on earth, 1 Peter 1:13-17; 2 Peter 3:10-18. This is how we Eagerly await His return.

III. They Rejoiced, Luke 24:52

- A. The apostles went away rejoicing! What was their joy rooted in?
 1. Jesus and the fact that He lives! Jesus being King!
 2. The kingdom that was to be ushered in soon, Acts 1:3.
- B. This joy continued in their ministry, Acts 5:30-31. Does it remain with us?
 1. The trials we face are "for a little while."
 2. How do we wait His return? With everyday joy, Philippians 4:4. Our joy is rooted in our ascended King! It will grow as we grow in prayer, meditation, and learning to be content.

IV. They Shared the Good News, Acts 1-2.

- A. The gospel was to begin in Jerusalem and continue to spread, Acts 1:8. It did!
 1. The word was preached! Preached to Jew and Gentile.
 2. Preached even when troubles came, Acts 8:1-4. It didn't stop.
- B. This must be our response as we await His second appearing.
 1. Because Jesus is appearing again, we must be ready!
 2. Salvation is coming for us. Judgment for those not saved, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.
 3. The world is perverted, Acts 2:40. People need hope and redemption.

Conclusion:

1. This is how we eagerly await His second appearing!
2. But what do we know? Jesus is the Son of God! Jesus Reigns! Jesus will appear!
3. I don't know what today holds! I don't know next year holds. What I know is Jesus will come again, Acts 1:9-11. Like the apostles, let's redeem our time during our stay on earth.