

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#107 – “The Ending and Blessing” – Luke 24:48-53

I. Introduction

A. Great stories have great endings.

1. “Saving Private Ryan”
2. Luke’s account is similar in beginning and ending.
3. David Gooding

B. The text – Luke 24:48-53

II. Exposition

A. Luke 24:48-49

1. Note the word “promise”.
 - a. The gospel will advance by divine power alone.
 1. II Corinthians 10:4
 - b. Realized on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
 - c. Note how this was foretold in the Old Testament.
 1. Num. 11:29; Isa. 32:15; 44:3; Ez. 36:27; Joel 2:28-29
 2. John 14:16-17, 26
 - d. Fulfillment in Acts 2:1-4

2. Power is necessary because all saints are called to be

witnesses.

- a. Greek – MARTYS
 1. “In the age of the apostles, witness was virtually synonymous with martyrdom,” Philip Ryken.

B. Luke 24:50-51

1. Only twice before – Gen. 5:24; II Kings 2:11.
2. More details in Acts 1:3, 9-10
3. Important to New Testament writers
 - a. Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; I Tim. 3:16
4. Jesus returned to glory – Eph. 4:10
5. The parting benediction – Luke 24:50
 - a. Beginning and ending – Luke 1:68-69; 24:50
 - b. Blessing has a long history – Lev. 9:22-23
 1. Traditional blessing – Num. 6:24-26
 - c. The blessing, in a sense, proves the work of Christ is done.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Among many important things, the ascension of Christ conveys great comfort for the saints while they continue to wrestle with sin and hardship.
 1. Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 6:19-20
- B. Having ascended, Jesus returned to His high place.
 1. Eph. 1:20-22
- C. The Pentecost of Acts makes clear that Jesus sent the Spirit of promise to all people groups.
 1. Acts 19:1-6; Acts 1:8; Acts 2 – Jews; Acts 8 – Samaritans; Acts 10 – God-fearers; Acts 19 – gentiles