



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is Lord of All Series, Lesson 50

Lesson Title: Ascension

Take Home Point: Jesus is Lord of heaven.

Warm-Up:

A group called the Raelians once made the news because of their emphasis on human cloning. Aside from moral and ethical aspects of human cloning, what are most interesting are the claims of the group's founder. He states that in 1973 extraterrestrials came to him, said he was a brother of Jesus, and gave him the name Rael. How do we know he is who he says? Because he says so! No other evidence is offered or available. How distinct Jesus is from others who claim to be divine – he frequently and convincingly demonstrated his power over man, nature, time, space, and spiritual forces. We don't have to believe Jesus just because he said we should, he proved it over and over. And he will prove it again when he returns.

Read: Acts 1:3-11

Observation (What happened?):

What did Jesus say his disciples would be?

In what way will Jesus return to earth according to the two men dressed in white?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What power do you think Jesus meant we would receive with the Holy Spirit?

What do you think the disciples meant by asking Jesus to restore the kingdom to Israel?

Insight:

Acts 1:11 is one of those watershed verses that draw an unmistakably clear line between Jesus and everyone else who claims to be from God or claims to be Jesus returned. There has been a long list of people since the time Jesus returned to heaven who claimed to be the re-descended Lord. But this verse doesn't leave any room for question. When Jesus returns to earth as he promised, he is coming back the same way he came – from the sky. No birth, no human body as we know it, no slowly proselytizing a small gathering of followers. Not only do we have this recorded statement from God's messengers to the disciples, Jesus himself said this in Matthew 24:26-27: *"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."* (NIV) We will all see it. His return will be unambiguous and obvious, just as his ascent was to his disciples at Jerusalem. His lordship will be clear and unquestionable, and he is our Savior.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know you have received the Holy Spirit? What evidence can be seen?

How are you a witness for Jesus? Name three ways you are his witness.