

A Radiant Mission

Acts 1:1-11 (Fresh Start Bible, Pg 948)

The Background (Acts 1:1-3)

The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)

“Christ’s ascension into heaven was the real commencement of his reign.”

John Calvin

Hebrews 7:22–25 (NLT)

²² Because of this oath, Jesus is the one who guarantees this better covenant with God. ²³ There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. ²⁴ But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. ²⁵ Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.

“In his life Christ is an example, showing us how to live; in his death he is a sacrifice, satisfying for our sin; in his resurrection, a conqueror; in his ascension, a king; in his intercession, a high priest.”

Martin Luther

Hebrews 9:24–28 (NLT): ²⁴ For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. ²⁵ And he did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the high priest here on earth who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with the blood of an animal. ²⁶ If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. ²⁷ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Mission (Acts 1:8)

Hebrews 10:19-26;31-39 (Fresh Start Bible, Pg 1087)

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Read the Gospel of Luke.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Acts 1:1-11. What do you notice within this passage?
- If you had to describe the ministry of Jesus, how would you describe it to someone?
- Read Mark 16:15-20. What do you imagine the ascension scene being like? What would your reaction have been?
- When you hear the word “witness” what comes to mind?
- Read Hebrews 10:19-39. What do you see this
- The word witness in the greek is “martyrs” which also can be translated as martyr. We want to be a faithful witness to Jesus as King, and that means there are elements of our life that must die. What in your life needs to be removed so that you can become a more faithful witness to Jesus?