



Daily Reflections

May 28, 2017

Scripture

Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus,
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught
until the day he was taken up,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen.
He presented himself alive to them
by many proofs after he had suffered,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.
While meeting with the them,
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,
but to wait for "the promise of the Father
about which you have heard me speak;
for John baptized with water,
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
When they had gathered together they asked him,
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons
that the Father has established by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?

This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, a feast which commemorates the return of Jesus to His Father after having completed His earthly mission. Before He departs, Jesus give His disciples a most important mission: They are to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, that mission was accomplished.

Food for your Journey

When you pursue God's dream for your life, you're going to run into delays. God uses those waiting periods to prepare you and test you so that you can face whatever is coming in the next phase of your faith.

Most of us tend to worry when we are delayed. We get stressed out. We complain. We become uptight. The Israelites, when God delayed their journey from Egypt to the promised land, reacted the same way: "On the way the people lost their patience and spoke against God and Moses. They complained" (Numbers 21:4b-5a, GNT).

The Israelites' complaining and fretting were the sins that kept them out of the promised land. No matter what God did for them, they found something to gripe about. They had no water, so God provided water. Then they had no

food, but when God provided food, they complained about the food they got. It's easy to gripe when we're forced to wait, isn't it? We don't mind waiting if we can complain about it.

Proverbs 19:2 says, "Impatience will get you into trouble." It's frustrating to be in a hurry and God isn't. God is never in a hurry! ... [God is] larger than time. One of the most useless things to try to do is to speed up God. When we try to take matters into our own hands and help God out, we get in trouble.

--Pastor Rick Warren, "In a delay, you can trust God's timing," Pastor Rick's Daily Hope Website, pastorrick.com, May 3, 2015. Retrieved December 18, 2016.

The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.

--Stephen Covey.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Help me to be an active and vibrant witness to Your presence in my life. In doing so, may I bring joy to others. Amen.