

What Jesus Did and Taught in the Forty Days

I. Acts 1:1-3. In the former book:

Luke wrote what Jesus did and taught until He was taken up to heaven. We need to keep these thoughts in mind; we must know what Jesus did and taught in Luke and the other Gospels as we read the “Acts of the Apostles.” Now, let us think about what Jesus did and taught in the period after God, the Father, raised Him from His physical death until the time He was taken up to heaven (Acts 1:1-11).

A. What we know from the Bible about what Jesus did in the forty days after His resurrection from His physical death:

1. Matt. 28:9. Greeted the sisters at the tomb. Then Jesus said, “Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me.”
2. Mark 16:9. Mary Magdalene was one of the women.
3. Mark 16:12. Jesus appeared to two men walking in the country.
4. Luke 24:13-18. A village called Emmaus was about seven miles out of Jerusalem. One of the two men Jesus joined on the road to Emmaus was Cleopas.
5. John 20:19-26. Jesus appeared to the disciples, probably, in Jerusalem the next Sunday after His resurrection. One week later He met with them again when Thomas was present.
6. Acts 10:41. Peter told Cornelius and his household, “He (Jesus) was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose for the dead.”
7. Acts 13:30, 31. Paul told the Jews at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, “But God raised Him from the dead, and for many days He was seen by those who had traveled with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now His witnesses to our people.”
8. John 21:1. Sometime during the forty days, Jesus met Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John for a fish breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias.
9. I Cor. 15:5-7. In addition to these people, Jesus was seen by more than 500 people including His half-brother, James.
10. Acts 1:4-11. Finally, Jesus met with eleven of the twelve apostles on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem from which He ascended into heaven.

B. We don’t know what Jesus did during the forty days; however, we do know what He taught. He taught the **kingdom of God**. This is the message Jesus preached and passed onto the apostles by the Holy Spirit to preach for building God’s church in the first century (Acts 20:25). When we think about a kingdom, we generally think about four main aspects of all kingdoms:

1. Authorities, territory, citizens and the law that governs the life of the citizens.
2. By reading Matt. 28:18, we understand Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and earth. So we know Jesus is the authority and heaven and earth is the territory.

The citizens are those who have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are the ones who obey everything Jesus taught the apostles to teach.
3. By reading John 18:37, we understand the citizens of the kingdom of Jesus Christ are those of us who are on the side of truth. Truth is the law of Jesus’ kingdom. Truth about how the spirit of mankind can develop as a son of God is the law of the new covenant (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 8:12).
4. This law of life was taught and personified by Jesus while on earth (John 1:1-4, 12, 13). “I am the way and the truth and the life.” John 14:6.

II. Jesus ascended and the Holy Spirit descended.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instruction through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen.

Acts 1:1, 2

This series of biblical interpretation aids, charts and lessons have been put together to assist Bible teachers in young churches. There is a great need for teachers in churches that have been started by missionary efforts. This is not a commentary on Acts; therefore, the charts and lessons have been designed to assist Bible teacher’s with their class preparation. All Christians should apply proper biblical principles for reading the different kinds of literature in the Bible. This material is designed for reading a narrative.