

**Monday**

Read Leviticus 9:22-24 and Luke 24:50-53

The Gospel of Luke isn't very interested in portraying Jesus in his priestly function. The Book of Hebrews is the place to go to read about Jesus as our High Priest – the one true sacrifice for our salvation. The Gospel of Matthew is probably the gospel that alludes to Jesus as our High Priest the most, but you'd have to work hard to make that connection. In any event, the conclusion to the Gospel of Luke portrays Jesus blessing the disciples much like Aaron, the priest for the Israelites, blesses the Israelites in Leviticus.

We all probably have a good sense of what a blessing is as we go about our everyday lives, but if you were asked to define "blessing" you might have a harder time (I know I do). In its most basic sense, there are two ideas present in the concept of blessing. First, a blessing is a public declaration of having favor with God. Second, a blessing endows power for success or prosperity.

Jesus gives a blessing to the disciples and I think he intends the disciples to receive the knowledge and power that they are being blessed to demonstrate to them that they are favored by God and that they are being given power for the mission of Jesus. We receive the same blessing from the Holy Spirit: you are blessed this day to know that you are favored by God through the person of Jesus Christ and given the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the mission of Jesus.

**Tuesday**

Read John 16:4b-15

Is it better that Jesus has physically gone away or would it be better to be able to watch and listen to Jesus on his daily *Jesus Show* broadcast straight from Jerusalem? Jesus clearly thinks it is better that he goes.

What are the benefits to Jesus ascending to be seated at the right hand of God the Father? If you could use some help, here are some of the scripture passages we used in the sermon to spark your memory: Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:2 and 16, Romans 8:9 and 34, and 1 John 2:1.

**Wednesday**

Read Ephesians 2:4-7

In Ephesians 2:4-7, Paul is applying the historical events of the life of Jesus – his resurrection and enthronement next to God the Father – to what has happened to believers. There is a union between Jesus and those who put their faith in Jesus. This union exists to such an extent that what is said of Jesus can be said of believers. We will be resurrected, but our spirits have in some way been raised up to Christ already. We share in Jesus' resurrected life and have an indestructible union with God. We have a new mind (Ephesians 4:23-24, Romans 12:1-2), a new identity (Romans 8:14-17), and the ability to live apart from evil (Romans 8:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17). What wonderful news this is! Made possible by Jesus life, death, resurrection, and ascension!

**Thursday**

Read Luke 24 (time to take in the whole scope of the chapter)

In a book entitled, "Quiet Talks on Service," Dr. S. D. Gordon, imagines a conversation taking place between the angel Gabriel and Jesus right after Jesus' ascension.

"Master, You died for the whole world down there, did You not?"

"Yes."

"You have suffered much."

"Yes," the Lord said. "

And do they all know what You did for them?" replied Gabriel.

"Oh, no...no; only a few in Palestine know about it so far."

Gabriel replies, "Well, Master, what's Your plan? What have You done about telling the world that You died for them, that You shed Your blood for all of them? What is your plan?" Gabriel waited expectantly, anticipating a grandiose plan – along the lines of the Creation itself.

And Jesus answered, "Well, I asked Peter and James and John and Andrew and a few other fellows to make it the business of their lives to tell others. And then the ones that they tell could tell others, and then the ones that they tell could tell others...."

**Friday** – please read and reflect upon Acts 1:1-11 and Isaiah 49:1-7.