

Fifty Days that Changed the World
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Introduction: God's kingdom was earnestly anticipated by His people

- A. Jesus pointed to both the time and the manner of this coming kingdom. **(Mk 9:1)**
 - 1. Those that heard Jesus were right to expect the kingdom *to come soon*.
 - 2. Few though, understood *the kind of power* that would bring this reign!
- B. What *kind of kingdom* was Jesus to build? **(Lk 17:20-21)**
 - 1. This kingdom will be *within the hearts of men*. It will not come with observation and it will take a kind of power that men cannot create!
 - 2. How do *we enter* this kingdom? The key is found in how we hear and in what do we believe? **(Mk 12:32-34)**
 - 3. Let us examine the 50 days that preceded this great kingdom and how Jesus *prepared His disciples* to receive it.

I. The first 3 days - The betrayal and Crucifixion of Jesus

- A. The first day involves *Jesus' death* with an understanding of the immediate events that led to it. Several key things occurred during this Passover.
 - 1. Jesus *instituted the Lord's Supper*. **(Lk 22:15-18)**
 - 2. Jesus again *speaks of His betrayal and death*.
 - 3. The disciples are *filled with bewilderment and sorrow*. **(Mk 14:18-19)**
- B. Jesus boldly *gives Himself up* to His enemies.
 - 1. He keeps the disciples from *fighting on Satan's battlefield* with his weapons of "power." **(Mt 26:51-54)**
 - 2. It appears that Satan and his forces have *all the power and advantages!* The forces of evil will soon come to regret their actions. **(1 Cor 2:8; Acts 4:24-26)**
 - 3. The creator of the universe has a power and wisdom that *will never be defeated*.
- C. The disciples fall into *a deep despair*. **(Lk 24:17, 21)**
 - 1. They hid with *a deep fear* of being arrested and executed. **(Jn 20:19)**
 - 2. They *refuse to believe* when several eyewitnesses come to them. **(Mk 16:9-13)**
 - 3. Their despair was great and they *remained without hope*.

II. The next 37 days – The resurrection and appearances of Jesus

- A. Peter describes the change in him *like a new birth* to a powerful hope. **(1 Pt 1:3-5)**
 - 1. This rock-solid knowledge of this event changes everything.
 - 2. Those that were slow to believe describe their hearts *as burning within them!* **(Lk 24:25, 31-32)**
 - 3. Thomas refuses to believe even the other 10 apostles! After 8 more days Jesus appears to all of them. **(Jn 20:25-29)**
 - 4. We can have *this same powerful change* in our hearts! How?
- B. Jesus spends His time in these 40 days with *a certain kind of teaching*. He gives constant emphasis to the fulfillment of the written word.
 - 1. What does He teach the two disciples? **(Lk 24:27)**

2. *What* does He teach all of the Apostles? (Lk 24:44-47; Acts 1:3)
3. How did Jesus commonly *refer to the written word* in His ministry? (Mt 26:53-54; Mk 14:21)
4. What more do they need to know about the kingdom of God? It was not until the end of 50 days that they would finally understand!
5. The preparation for this kingdom *involved teaching and lots of it!* The apostles would soon well understand the special role they would play. (Lk 22:29-30)

III. The final 10 days – The ascension of Christ and final preparation of the apostles

- A. The apostles understood that *a final great promise* was about to be fulfilled. (Acts 1:6-8)
 1. While Jesus does not specifically answer their question on the kingdom, He does let them know that the *coming of the Holy Spirit* would be the key.
 2. What is the fundamental work of the Holy Spirit? *It is teaching!* (Jn 16:12-13)
 3. The foundation of the kingdom will come from the truth delivered to the apostles and prophets! (Eph 2:20)
- B. There was one more event that *shook their hearts*. (Acts 1:9-11)
 1. They were about to move into *a different world*. It would be hard to let go of the daily bodily presence of Jesus. (Jn 20:16-17)
 2. Jesus already had told them that the coming of the Holy Spirit would show that He *did not leave them as orphans*. (Jn 14:16-17)
 3. Ultimately, He *promised to return!* (Jn 14:27-29)
 4. One *final step*, the replacement for Judas was found! (Acts 1:20-22)
 5. The provisions He made for these Apostles was perfect. *Now they are ready!*

IV. Pentecost – the day the world forever changed.

- A. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit *pointed to the Apostles*. (Acts 2:2-4, 7)
 1. Men and women marveled and could see *a power from God*.
 2. Scoffers tried to deny the power, but now *a greater power would be shown!* (Acts 2:14)
- B. What *kind of teaching* did these men bring? It was just like Jesus!
 1. *Fulfilled scripture* in these events. (Acts 2:16; 25, 30-31)
 2. A *personal appeal* to what they already knew. (Acts 2:22)
 3. The *exposure of their hearts* with a path to forgiveness. (Acts 2:36-38)
- C. What about *the days that followed?*
 1. The apostles *did not stop this kind of teaching*.
 2. Those trained and grounded by the apostles *started teaching like this as well*. (Acts 8:3-4)
 3. The enemies of Christianity admitted that *the world had changed!* (Acts 17:6)
 4. The power and the promise of this teaching would continue from generation to generation! (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 2:39)

Conclusion: Are we presently in this kingdom?