

## Ascension B

Once upon a time there was a king who lived in a land much like Bahamas  
Ground was rocky and hard – tough on his feet  
So the king decreed that the entire kingdom would be covered in leather  
Jester laughed and told the king he was foolish – king was enraged  
Until the Jester suggested he just put the leather around his own feet  
- and shoes were invented

Now this story shows two important things  
First – the source of good news may come from unlikely sources  
Second – there can be risk in proclaiming it

Today we celebrate the Ascension – Jesus commissions Apostles to spread the Gospel  
They were very unlikely preachers – uneducated, inexperienced, not too bright  
They were taking on a risky job – most of them would be killed doing it

B U T

As Jesus ascends to His father *His last words are kind of important* What does He say?

1. (promise) You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you
2. (command) **Then** go and be my witnesses to the ends of the world

The gospel says the disciples went and preached everywhere AND  
The Lord continued to work thru them and confirmed their message with miracles  
With the HS all things are possible  
This small band proclaimed the Christian message *to the whole world*  
CHRIST WORKED THRU THEM & HE STILL DOES

In the Bahamas track & field is really popular  
What happens during Ascension is like a relay race  
Jesus passes the baton on to Peter James and John  
Peter, James, and John pass it on to Linus, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian  
And it goes on, and on, and on – until it is passed to us  
(Let me tell you something)  
Proclaiming Jesus is more than preaching.  
Proclaiming the Gospel means making Christ a reality to the world  
**People do not become Christians thru the words of Christianity**  
**People become Christians thru the presence of Jesus Christ**  
**People become Christians because they see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness**  
**goodness, gentleness, and self-control – IN US**  
**And satan doesn't want that to happen.**  
So he tempts us, he instills fear in us, he makes us doubt our faith.  
Evil is always going to wage war on Christianity  
Let me teach you a little something about sin:

I have two bottles – one is water, one is poison. Both look good – both attractive BUT  
One death, one life ---  
When we sin – satan makes it look good, attractive, we want it – but it is deadly

Jesus defeated sin – Jesus has risen – AND Ascended.  
Now He intercedes for us – that we may overcome temptation  
The Lord fights for us AND He fights with us

He empowers us to be His witnesses to everyone we meet.  
He sent the Holy Spirit so we can preach with our lives –  
To choose light over darkness To choose life over death

To tell the whole world what we believe