

Ascension A

- I. Most people have a misunderstanding about the Ascension
 - a. They think its about Jesus – it's not – it's about YOU and ME
 - b. Let me recall a movie that came out several years ago that will help us understand a truth about Ascension – Good Will Hunting (a Boston movie)
 - c. Will Hunting was born in Southie – lower-class family, construction
 - i. Will Hunting however, was brilliant. Math just came to him
 - ii. Will was content to stay in Southie, work construction, get married
 - iii. Will's best friend sits him down and says
 - 1. "If you do that – if you're still here at 50yo – I'll kill you"
 - 2. "You have a gift, you're special, I'd give anything ..."
 - 3. "It'd be an insult to me if you're still here, hanging around"
 - iv. That's friendship – to support a friend – encourage him to be better – even if it means there will be a vacant spot in *your* life.
- II. The disciples of Jesus were disappointed at Jesus' departure
 - a. They loved Him – He was their friend, teacher, Lord
 - b. There would be something missing from their lives without Him
 - c. BUT – they knew that He was too big for Galilee, for Jerusalem, for Earth
 - i. He needed to be set free from this earthly life
 - ii. He needed to soar to be accessible to all
 - iii. He needed to Ascend to His Father that the HS would be sent
 - d. The Ascension is a turning point in Salvation history.
 - i. The Ascension celebrates the passing on of Christ's spirit
 - ii. This spirit would be passed on to ordinary everyday people (us)
 - 1. That we might witness
 - 2. That we might do the works of Jesus in this world
 - 3. To celebrate His memory and invoke His presence.
 - e. The Ascension is OUR swearing in time
 - f. "Men of Galilee, why are you dawdling, looking up to the sky?"
 - i. "You are now Church – Get busy – Jesus has empowered you"
 - ii. All of US have been given the HS – not just a few – ALL
- III. Look at it this way – the Ascension is the institution of the 'priesthood of the faithful' that would be given on Pentecost
 - a. 1 Peter 2 "You are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a chosen race, a people se apart"
 - i. That's YOU – the priesthood of the faithful
 - ii. It was promised at Ascension – made so on Pentecost
 - iii. WE are Christ in the world
 - 1. Only about 2% of the Church are ordained clergy
 - a. To serve the priesthood of the faithful
 - b. To remind you of YOUR priesthood
 - b. The Ascension is YOUR feast – a preparation of the gift of the HS to you
 - c. It is a passing of the baton
 - i. To remind you of YOUR dignity, your calling, your power, your mandate, your duty
 - ii. Together – the priesthood of the faithful & ordained clergy – we are to profess what we believe and live what we profess
 - iii. Jesus said "Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you"
 - 1. Remember - You have received that promise at Baptism
 - 2. Remember – You are Church