

Reading for the week of May 29/22:

Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

There is a tremendous amount that could be said on these readings, but let us look at this from a slightly different perspective. In the opening greeting of both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, the writer, traditionally Luke, acknowledges Theophilus. There is no historical account of who Theophilus was, but it is thought that he commissioned Luke to write both of these works. In the Gospel of Luke, Luke tells us about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus culminating in Jesus' glorious ascension. How He, Jesus, was carried to Heaven while Blessing the disciples. In the Acts of the Apostles, it opens with a greeting to Theophilus and the retelling of the Ascension of Jesus. It was not uncommon to start the second "volume" with the retelling of the end of the first. Luke then tells us of the Acts of the Apostles, just before and after receiving the Promise declared in Luke 24:49, "And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." As well as Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In writing these books for Theophilus, Luke has given a gift to the world. He has told us twice that Jesus ascended to the Father, therefore affirming Jesus' Divinity as Son of God. As well as reminding us to receive the "Power from on High", the Holy Spirit, The Comforter, The Giver of Peace. The One who enables us to do ALL things through Christ, who gives us strength.

I encourage each one of us today to invite Jesus into our hearts afresh. To invite the Holy Spirit into our lives, to help guide us through this difficult world. As we walk with Him, may we be like the Apostles and BE witnesses to those who need Him.