

**Following Jesus
I Go To Prepare
Acts 1:1-14**

I. Message

- a. The story of redemption that was finished on the cross and guaranteed with the resurrection, BEGINS in earnest, with Christmas
 - i. God came
 - ii. That is the first step
 - iii. **Acts 1:1-14**
 1. The gospels tell us what Jesus did and taught
 2. From the moment of He came (His birth, **Christmas, Luke 2**)
 3. Until the moment of His ascension back into heaven
 - a. Now Jesus is ready to depart
 - b. Where was He going?
 - c. Why was He going?
 - d. And what does it have to do with Christmas?
- b. Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for us – Acts 1:9
 - i. **“9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”**
 - ii. Jesus told them this was going to happen, back in John 14
 - iii. And He told them then that it HAD to happen
 - iv. Because He had something He needed to do
 - v. While THEY were to be making disciples, He is preparing Heaven for US!
 1. **John 14:1-6**
 2. Someone once said He took 6 days to create the world
 3. And roughly 2,000 so far to prepare Heaven
 4. Must be an awesome place!
 - a. Have you ever considered that His preparations in Heaven are possible only BECAUSE of what He accomplished in His life?
 - b. Preparation of Heaven is only necessary because He can now take us with Him!
 - c. And that is ONLY possible because...
 - i. Perfect life (started with Christmas by the way)
 - ii. Voluntary death on a cross
 - iii. Bodily resurrection
 1. The only reason He had to leave was because He CAME (Christmas)
 2. And the only reason He could voluntarily leave and go home was because He was God

3. And the only reason He wanted to leave was to finish preparations for our arrival!

II. Conclusion – what should you do with Christmas message focused on the ascension?

a. Receive the gift Jesus came to offer

- i. Right now, He is preparing a home in Heaven only for believers
- ii. Understand, agree, believe on Jesus alone (repent and depend)

b. Respond rightly to Jesus this Christmas

i. Luke 24:50-53 “And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they **worshipped him**, and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**: 53 And were continually in the temple, **praising** and **blessing** God. Amen.”

1. **Worship Jesus** – to fall on knees in respect and homage
2. **Have great joy** – gladness, happy to be associated with Jesus
3. **Praise God** – make much of God
4. **Bless God** – (eulogy) to speak well of God

a. By the way, this is the back end of the parentheses

b. This is how it all started

i. Worship Jesus!

1. The shepherds did this
2. The wise men did this
3. **Matthew 2:11**

ii. Have great joy! – Luke 2:8-10

iii. Make much of God and speak highly of Him!

1. **Luke 2:13**
2. **Luke 2:20**