



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Everyday Mission Series – Missional Barriers**

Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**

Scriptures: **Acts 1:1-11**

## **Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven**

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

## **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, we will continue our new series, Everyday Mission. Pastor Rich will lead us through Acts 1:1-11, offering reflections on what gets in the way of being on mission.

## **Sermon Questions:**

1. Mission can look like:
  - Having conversations on faith with neighbors
  - Serving migrants and refugees
  - Working at a food pantry
  - Serving on a local board
  - Protesting injustice
  - Peacemaking between people and groups
  - Creating environments for people to gather (meals, sports, etc.)

What is your understanding of what mission should look like? How does this list compare? What would you add to the list?

2. Pastor Rich spoke about how our lives provide a sample to others of the kingdom of God. What do you think can make the lives of Christians attractive to the outside world?

3. Pastor Rich shared two primary obstacles to being on mission: 1) It's easy to organize our lives solely around ourselves, 2) It's easy to focus on God in such a way that gets in the way of mission. Which of these obstacles do you relate to the most and why? What could be one step towards shifting the focus to being on mission with God?

4. We demonstrate our love for God through our love for neighbor. Share an example of how someone has loved you in a way that demonstrated God's love and generosity.

5. Take time to pray and consider how God may be inviting you to love him by loving your neighbor this week. Ask God to help remove any barriers getting in the way of you living a missional life.