



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT..

Crossroads Church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

## SOAP READING—March 8, 2010

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### S: Acts 1:1-11

*Acts 1.10-11: "As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"*

- O:** What in the world? Can you imagine the whirlwind the last three years represented for these people? They had been chosen by Jesus after being rejected as someone else's disciples. Then they saw his miracles...his teachings...his compassion for the lost...his judgment on the arrogant...he spoke in riddles to them about his death and resurrection...then it actually happened! They saw him die...they gave up hope...they heard he was back...and if that wasn't crazy enough...they just saw him fly into outer space!!!

So, I can't blame them for taking a few minutes to stare into the sky in disbelief. I can't blame them for taking a few minutes to try to process the last 36 months of their lives. But there is no time for that! The angels say, "Get on with it. You have much to do because Jesus is coming back again, just like you saw him leave!"

So...get on with it!

- A:** "Staring" is a dangerous thing. It is what you are doing right before a big burly guy says, "What are you looking at?" and then punches you in the face. It is also dangerous when it comes to following Jesus. Looking back can very literally keep you from moving forward in your faith. For me, my early faith was centered on the summer "church camp" experience. I would continue to look back to the previous summer's experience for 51 weeks until I could do it again. More recently, I have found myself looking backward at how God has moved in my life. Trusting him 6 years ago when I moved to Minnesota...or, 4 years ago when I took a new job...or, 2 years ago when I got married. I knew God was in those things and I felt his presence in a powerful way. But now the temptation for me is to stand there staring into heaven. God wants to do more in me and through me. That is why he sent the angels to tell me to "Get on with it!"
- P:** Jesus, please grant me the focus and the determination to turn my eyes away from what has been done...to what you are doing and going to do! Give me the strength to "get on with it!" I know there is much to do before you return. Amen.