

Chapel May 3, 1983 The Most Important Departure in History
or What is Ahead?

Today I was thinking that many of youx are departing. Some of you are departing because you have finished your work in the next few weeks. Others are departing for the summer. So I thought today I would look at the most important Departure in all history. You of course all immediately know that is contained in Acts One. I want to read verses 6 to 11. (Reading text.)

Certainly that was the most important departure in all history, when Jesus left the disciples after he'd been teaching them. There's another similarity to our present situation. You have been studying. You've been thinking about important things. You've been looking forward to the future. You've been thinking how your lives are going to accomplish the utmost for Christ. Just as those disciples were.

Of course you will be departing from here. In the other case it was the Teacher departing. But as He was talking with them suddenly He was taken up before their eyes. We are told He will return in the same manner in which He went up. So as we look forward to the future, I believe it is very important that we have in mind what is ahead. Are you ready for what is ahead. Will you be ready for what is ahead?

In Mat. 24:44 we read how the Lord said a verse that can be paralleled in many other accounts of his talks in various times. In Mat. 24:44 he said, But you also must be ready because the Son of Man comes in an hour when you do not expect Him. Are you ready? Are you prepared if He should come? Will you be able to look back and say, I have served Him to the utmost of my ability. while in seminary. I have prepared to the utmost of my ability. to make whatever days or months or years you give me count to the utmost. for my God.

I have been trying to build up within myself the qualities You desire me to have, in order that my life may accomplish the utmost for Christ. I think after a years work you are entitled to a little rest. I hope you all get it, but I hope you won't rest the whole summer. I hope once you get rested and get yourself in good shape again you will set to work to make your life count to the utmost for the Saviour. He wants us to be ready whenever he comes. He will come in the same manner as He went. He went suddenly. He went unexpectedly. No one knew just when it would be. They did not think that all the sudden He would be gone, as He was. We have no way to know that all the sudden He is appearing in the air. Then our chance of serving Him will be at an end. Then our chance of growing in grace, then our chance of getting to know the Word better will be at an end.

Now of course nearly 2000 years have passed since our Lord said these words. Naturally many think this is sort of a wild idea that such a change will ever take place. Many today are like those whom Peter spoke of in 2 Peter chapter 3:3,4 where Peter said, First of all you must understand that in the last days