Sermon:

FAQs are commonly found on websites and are so frustrating. Not only do they never answer *your* question, but the company so assumes they have answered every possible question that it is hard to find out how answer *your* question.

Disciples must have been similarly frustrating to Jesus. eg when trying to tell them about his impending death and at Transfiguration with Peter wanting to build altars!

Even after Resurrection they still did not get it: not believing the women, Thomas doubting, the couple on the Emmaus Rd not recognising him.

In Acts 1.6-14: **Will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?** (v6).

It assumes that the Kingdom is still for Israel, that it will be on earth, and that Jesus will do it sometime.
He says it is the wrong question, and refuses to answer it.

Then more frustration after Ascension (v9). Naturally they stare after Jesus, disappearing in the sky.

**Why are you standing there looking up at the sky?** (v11) Somehow they get it wrong again. They should be looking on earth for him.

Having left the Mount of Olives they return to the Upper Room. Naturally they hide (note it is the same 11 disciples as mentioned in Lk 6.14-16). Is this where they’re meant ultimately to be?

Again and again they seem to make mistakes, or misunderstand Jesus’ purposes, or plan for them.

Are we any better? How often do we dwell on the wrong questions? How much debate was there about the colour of the carpets and chairs when this church built? How much time is spent discussing money compared to discussing mission? (not that discussing money is wrong!)

Then again how often do we look for Jesus in our worship, & prayers, forgetting he is present in all of life?

And again how tempting is it to hide in our lovely building, just hoping that others will suddenly join us?

We, like disciples, are not perfect. But the Good News is that Jesus found these exasperating disciples useful, and so too us. We, like them, need to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, that gift we celebrate coming next week at Pentecost. We do not have to wait though. God’s Spirit is here with us now.

I can see this in the way scarves and hats have been left in public places. Signs of God’s care in our cty.

Ascension shows us that Jesus is not limited to 1st Century Palestine, but as King of all is available to us here and now. Thanks be to God that we can continue his ministry with the power and direction of his Spirit!