

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet - The place where Jesus ascended was technically not within the city limits of Jerusalem at the time. It was on one of the surrounding hills to the East, known for the olive groves that had once been present there. Olivet was simply an alternate name for the mount of olives which translates to the same words

which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away- Context may have been needed for Gentile readers. As part of the Law of Moses, Jews were only permitted to travel a certain distance on the Sabbath. The limit was 2,000 cubits, which amounts to somewhere between a half mile or three quarters of a mile. If they went over, it was considered a violation for working on the Sabbath. By using this known fact, they showed that the Mount of Olives was less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away.

¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying- This upper room was perhaps the site of the Last Supper, but it is possible that it was a different place. Luke uses a different word in his Gospel compared to the word in Acts. The Last Supper may have happened in a temporary, much smaller room equipped to fit 12 people. This room was large enough to fit 120 people and may have belonged to Mary, the mother of John Mark. Acts 12 speaks of this very large upper room before Peter was rescued

Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James- These were the remaining 11 apostles after Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. The Judas listed here was also known as Thaddeus. At this time, the apostles were incomplete and wanted to restore their number to 12. 12 was seen as a number of completeness, but the Scriptures also indicated that they should fill the spot that was vacated by Judas.

¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

All these with one accord- One accord means that the apostles were not going in all different directions after Jesus' ascension. They were acting in lock-step, as though they were one person and not many. This also means that they were not fighting or disagreeing about Jesus or His teachings at this time, which is very important. Others suppose that there was a great debate going on among the disciples about Jesus, but this contradicts that line of thinking.

were devoting themselves to prayer- Whenever we are getting ready to do something difficult or even if we are not, prayer should be our posture. Prayer is a powerful tool that can be used to discern the will of God. Though they already had Jesus' words, they were probably asking God to give them additional help and guidance.

together with the women- Though we don't always picture it that way, there were women who traveled with Jesus in His inner circle. Normally, women did not follow rabbis. Luke 8 lists three women: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna. According to Mark's Gospel, Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. Joanna was apparently healed by Jesus and provided for His ministry. She and her husband may have been wealthy, as her husband was Herod's steward. Along with the other two women, Susanna is listed as bringing myrrh and spices to Jesus' tomb.

and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers- At the annunciation, Mary showed great faith by believing what the angel Gabriel said to her. Later on, Jesus' family was not at all pleased with Him. His brothers, sisters, and family try to prevent Him from completing His mission in Mark 3:20-21. John 7:5 says His brothers did not believe in Him. Matthew 13 shows Him being rejected upon coming home. The fact that Jesus' brothers are listed here is an indication that they came to believe in Him. James, Jesus' brother, ended up being the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. Jesus' sisters are not listed, but that does not necessarily mean that they did not believe.