

SERMON TITLE: ASCENSION**TEXT: LUKE 24:50-53****INTRODUCTION.**

In their book on the Ascension of Jesus, Tim and Aaron Perry write: “A lot of otherwise completely orthodox and very devout people don’t bother with the Ascension because, frankly, it’s hard to swallow....After all, are we really to believe that a literal flesh-and-blood Jesus defied gravity and really rose into the air until a cloud hid him?” As the book goes on to prove, the answer is yes! The Ascension has profound implications on how God’s people live.

DISCUSSION.

How many sermons, studies, or lessons have you heard on the Ascension?

If it is so important, why has it been neglected?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.50-51 What is a blessing and how can we both receive it and give it?

- Compare this to other accounts of the Ascension: Acts 1:9-11 (Luke wrote this one too); Mark 16:19. What is the same? What additional details are included?
- When it says Jesus “was taken up into heaven” where did he go?
- What are some of the things Jesus has been doing since he Ascended? (See John 14:2; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1; Ephesians 1:20-22)

Vv.52-53 Compare the disciples’ response to the Ascension with their response to what happened in Luke 24:36-38. Why the difference?

- Why did they return to Jerusalem and stay at the temple?

APPLICATION.

- How can the Ascension shape our lives to reflect the Good News?
- In what way is it true that Jesus is both absent and present?
- Which of these (Jesus’ absence or presence) do you feel most strongly? At what times?

- How is it possible to live with great joy, praising God as the disciples did?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?