

The **Jesus** of Easter...
Part 5
Ascended into Heaven!

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

2017.4.23



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
 - Read Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2. What sources did Luke use in order to write his account?
Why do you think it was so important to Luke and to Theophilus that these accounts be accurate?
Now read Luke 24:36-53 and Acts 1:3-12. Sketch out the post-resurrection events of Christ.
Were you aware that Jesus continued appearing to the disciples, and teaching them theology, for a period of forty days after Easter? Why do you think he stuck around for such a long time?
 - Review the three advantages we receive as a result of Jesus' ascension (see Sermon Summary).
Which of those advantages have you personally experienced? Tell us about it.
Which one of those advantages is **most** meaningful to you—and **why**?
Which one of those advantages is **least** meaningful to you at this time? Why do you think that is?
What would it take to grow in your appreciation of that advantage?
- Ten thousand years from now* which of those advantage do you think you'll most appreciate—and **why**?

The ascended Christ is ever-present to help you!
For free biblical hope and help, write to
Counseling@tcc.org

Application-Challenge

- Trust that Jesus is fully aware of your difficulties. He's engaged in helping you. Talk to him about your problems.
- Make it your daily practice to give Jesus the recognition he deserves.
- Fix all your hope on the fantastic home and reunion that awaits us in heaven. Don't hope in your health, money, success, or comfort. We're just passing through this life!

Sermon Summary

World-famous Christian illusionist Andre Kole, who specializes in debunking claims others' make of having supernatural power, has offered a \$1,000,000 prize if he is not able to explain a magic trick. Kole came to faith in Christ as a result of trying to prove that Jesus' miracles were only trickery. More than any other miracle, it was Jesus' ascension—accomplished outdoors, in broad daylight, with no equipment—which brought the young skeptic to faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.

For many Christians, Jesus' ascension to heaven is one of the most overlooked aspects of Christ's life and work—just an afterthought. But the New Testament views it as a triumph, the pinnacle, the completion, of Jesus' redemptive work. Jesus' incarnation was his humiliation and de-scension from heaven. Jesus' ascension is his glorification; it is the event in which he is exalted and glorified.

When Jesus told his disciples that he would leave them and return to heaven, they were filled with sorrow (Luke 16:17-20). But he promised that their grief would be turned to joy—and it was (Luke 24:52)! Jesus also said that it would be to their—and our—advantage that he depart (Luke 16:7). Jesus was right again! At least three advantages resulted:

[1] Jesus' departure provided immediate help to all believers. When Jesus was on earth, his help was localized where he was. You had to personally encounter Jesus in order to be healed. But when Jesus returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit who would live inside each and every believer (John 14:16-20; 16:7; Romans 8:9). So, for Christians, Jesus' ascension into heaven does not mean his physical remoteness, but his spiritual nearness! And Jesus, enthroned in heaven, now prays for every believer (Romans 8:34).

[2] Someone we love is finally getting the recognition he deserves. When someone you love is unappreciated and disrespected, you hurt. When Jesus laid aside his glory and came to earth to save sinners, few thanked him. But that didn't stop him from loving, serving, giving. That Jesus now is receiving the recognition he deserves is an advantage for us who love him. And one day every knee will bow and tongue will confess that he is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11). This is a precious advantage to us who love Christ.

[3] A fantastic home and reunion are being prepared for us (John 14:1-3). Jesus said that one of the reasons why he was leaving was to prepare a home for us in heaven. He said he'd come back as soon as it is. If you care about having a home in heaven, then you should be glad that Jesus ascended to heaven! Are you tired of the stress and endurance involved in living in this fallen world? Jesus is getting things ready for us. He'll be back shortly. Hang on. And, in the meantime, the Scriptures teach believers to fix our hope completely on the fantastic home and reunion that awaits us in heaven (1 Peter 1:13).

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

If you were asked, "In what way did Christ's death and resurrection benefit you?", most Christians would have a quick and confident reply. But what about the benefits of our Lord's ascension? Let's see...

From the following passages, what do you learn about Jesus ascension into heaven?

- Luke 24:36-53 and Acts 1:1-12
- Ephesians 4:9-10
- Hebrews 1:3-9
- Hebrews 10:12-13; 12:2
- John 7:33-34
- John 14:19 & 28-29
- John 16:16-17
- John 17:5
- Philippians 2:8-9
- 1 Peter 1:10-11 & 20-21
- 1 Timothy 3:16
- Revelation 3:21; Acts 5:31; Ephesians 1:19-20
- Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55-56

Who has observed the ascended Christ, and how did it impact them?

- Acts 7:55-56
- Acts 9:3-5 (also see 22:6-8; 26:13-15)
- Revelation 4:1; 5:6

According to Romans 5:10, what does the **death** of Christ do? What does the **life** of Christ do? One of them is past tense, the other is future. What do you think is the significance of that?

What does the Apostle Paul say about living the Christian life (Philippians 3:12-14)?

What power did the Lord leave us with when He ascended (Ephesians 1:18-20)?

What is to result from the Holy Spirit's power in our lives?

- Acts 1:8
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
- Is that your experience?

According to the following passages, how do we maintain fellowship with the Lord?

- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 1 John 1:5-10

How does Christ's enthronement help us (Hebrews 4:15-16)?

From the following passages, what do we know about our heavenly home?

- Revelation 21:4
- 2 Corinthians 5:8