

040724

Ascension of the Beloved

Acts 1:6-11

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Background

He is risen! (He is risen, indeed!) But His journey is not over - there are still two more stops in our series, "The Journey of the Beloved". Christians all around the world and throughout history have remembered alongside the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection two other key events in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Join us this Sunday for the next stop along the journey of the Beloved Christ: His Ascension to the Right Hand of God.

Sermon Text: Acts 1:6-11 (NIV)

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- a. How do you plan to support the youth Mexico trip this week?
- b. When you think of the Ascension, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
- c. As Jesus is preparing the disciples for the ascension, their question about restoring the kingdom of Israel (1:6) seems to imply they are still wanting some form of nationalism and/or destruction of Rome. "But Jesus' goals and purposes are not nationalism or ethnocentrism ... His goals and purposes are the reconciliation of creation to their creator." As you think about your own life, do you ever have times of confusion like the disciples, desiring nationalism/destruction or ethnocentrism/exclusion over reconciliation? Explain.
- d. Where do Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid! Peace be with you" touch you this week? In other words, where in your life do you need to not be afraid and to have peace?
- e. Jesus is ruling and reigning from the right hand of God "in love" right now! How does this good news affect you as you walk through your daily life?
- f. We also do not need to be afraid when we fail in sin because He is interceding for us from his heavenly throne, as the great high priest (Rom 8:34). How does this good news affect you as you walk through your daily life?