SERMON NOTES

Sunday, August 30, 2020

"<u>WHY THE ASCENSION MATTERS</u>" (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:7-11)

Today we look at one of the most familiar events in the Bible and probably the one great event from the life and ministry of Jesus least understood, applied, and appreciated. What are the benefits to be found in the ascension of Jesus?

1. It shows Jesus is really alive.

2. It establishes Jesus as the reigning king over all powers in all ages.

"He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 1:20-21, CSB).

"He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6-7, CSB).

3. It gives us access to God's throne for mercy and grace.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession" (Ephesians 4:14, CSB).

"Approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, CSB).

4. It provides an Advocate on earth whose presence is limitless.

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17, CSB). "It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7, CSB).

5. It keeps us longing for His return.

"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11, CSB).