

GOING DEEPER
May 23 & 24, 2020

Title: Never the Same – The Ascension

Teacher: Scott Lanigan

Text: Acts 1:1-11

Discussion Questions:

We find Jesus, ready to return home and take His rightful place in heaven. In layman's terms, the ascension is when God went back to where He started. Jesus, fully human and fully divine, God-man, takes his place as the new king, the one and only king, and head of the human race. He sits at the right hand of God.

LOOK AT THE WORD

“After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)

After 3 years of earthly ministry + 40 days of post-resurrection, what are the disciples still lacking understanding in? What elements of Jesus' ministry have they started to understand? Is there anything they have fully understood? Why is this important?

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.” (Acts 1:8)

The disciples had to wait to receive the Holy Spirit, in His fullness.

What are signs that the Holy Spirit has come?

(Helps: Luke 12:8-12, John 16:7-14, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 21:11, Romans 15:16, 2 Cor 6:3-13, 1 Thess 1:6)

LOOK INWARD

“He [Jesus] will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

Jesus rises into heaven, showing everyone the fullness of God. When they ask him “are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”, this is a human-centred question. When they look up, literally AND figuratively, they shift from human-centred questions to heaven-centred questions. What human questions are you asking right now? As you shift your posture, what heavenly questions do you have?

“When you wait, you get vision for your life”

What dreams has God given you for your life? Where are they rooted in your self? Where are they rooted in God?

These days, in your waiting, what vision are you receiving from God?

The work of God may take something you never thought you would have to do, to be what God has called you to be.

“Why do you stand here looking into the sky?” (Acts 1:11)

Scott shared: “Stop praying for clarity and start praying for trust.” Where are you asking God for clarity? How does it change if you ask to trust in that circumstance? PAUSE: pray for trust.

LOOK OUTWARD

“My response is more important than the reason why.”

Our discipleship is worked in our weakness, uncertainty, doubt. Two Corinthians 12:9-10 says,

“He [the Lord] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

We can stand endlessly looking to heaven, or we can begin to be moved by the power of God. PAUSE: pray “Holy Spirit, I welcome you in. Move in me. Help me to respond well.”

SO WHAT:

The way you respond to God influences the way others respond to God. What response to God do you want to see in others? How can you imagine that it begins with you?

"It doesn't matter what you have been or what you have done. It doesn't matter how flawed and foolish you are. When the eyes of God the Father look at you, they see the ascended Jesus; when they listen to you, they hear him. When God looks and listens to you, He sees and hears infinite beauty . . . He sees Jesus not sitting at the right hand but standing on your behalf, advocating for you." - Tim Keller

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- *Praise God for His faithfulness and presence during these times of uncertainty*
- *Thank God for the way He is providing for you in these challenging circumstances*
- *Intercede for our businesses as they develop new guidelines in opening; keep them safe and healthy.*
- *Praise God for Alpha this week (30+ people are participating Tuesday and Thursday nights)*
- *Pray for God's healing for Chiara, Randy, Terry & Isla; facing cancer and tumour challenges*
- *Pray for all the churches in Kelowna as they make plans for summer ministry in their communities*

NOTE: In a season of physical distancing:

If you know of someone needing Pastoral Care in this season, please call:

- *Pastor Gord (who is caring for our seniors as well as those in hospital/care facilities) 250-801-0480*
- *Pastor Brad (who is caring for families and those not yet seniors) 250-469-0618*