GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Ryland Walter | June 10-11, 2023 Week 2: What Is Jesus Doing Now?

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, <u>will come back</u> in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

1. He is _____ his family secure

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)

Jesus: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me." John 10:27-28 (NLT)

2. He is _____ on our behalf

But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. ²⁵ Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. <u>He lives forever to intercede with God on their</u> <u>behalf</u>. Hebrews 7:24-25 (NLT)

He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf. Hebrews 9:24 (NLT)

Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Romans 8:34 (NLT)

3. He is ______ a home for us in Heaven

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that <u>I am going to prepare</u> <u>a place for you</u>? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."

⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" John 14:1-7 (NLT)

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has <u>prepared</u> for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

4. He is ______ us to finish the assignment

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given <u>all authority</u> in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Jesus: Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and <u>then the end will come</u>. Matthew 24:12-14 (NLT)

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT)

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WHAT IS JESUS DOING NOW? Talk-it-Over Notes | June 10-11, 2023

REVIEW IT

Not only was Jesus resurrected, he is STILL alive! So, what's he been doing for the last two millennia in the heavenly realms? What will he do until he returns? 1) He is keeping his family secure. 2) He is interceding on our behalf. 3) He is preparing a home for us in Heaven. 4) He is authorizing us to finish the assignment.

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Spend some time in the word: Read John chapter 14

TALK ABOUT IT

- How would you describe God's love for you? ("See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are." 1 John 3:1) Do you see God as a perfect Father?
- Our eternal security is God's job, not our job. What does 2 Timothy 1:12 have to say about the security of a Christian's connection with God? How will this truth help you in your personal relationship with him?
- Scripture says that our heavenly Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all intercede for us. (John 17:9, 11, 15, 20; Hebrews 7:24-25; Romans 8:26). What would you tell a person who has a hard time believing that the Trinity is rooting for them?
- What is one of the most spectacular sights you've seen on earth? According to 1 Corinthians 2:9, what will heaven be like? Since God created imperfect earth and perfect heaven, how does this affect your vision of heaven?

ACT ON IT

Many of us can be hesitant to share our faith. In Matthew 28:18-20 what assurance does Jesus give us? How might his words motivate you to share your faith?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Ask how you can pray for a support one another this week and then close in prayer.