

Date: September 27, 2026

Title: Live for the Ascended King

Passage: Acts 1:9-11

Summary:

- I. Trust the King who reigns over you
- II. Depend upon the Savior who ministers for us.
- III. Serve the Lord who will return for you.

Key Truths:

- Jesus sits on the right hand of God the Father. Jesus was king before and is now proven king after His resurrection.
- Jesus is the ultimate ruler and is still reigning over all. He requires us to trust and submit to Him. God is good all the time and He is all powerful. We must trust these truths.
- God's authority reaches into every area of your life. To live for the Ascended King is to obey and trust Him. It should inform the way you live everyday.
- Jesus' sacrifice is complete. He does not offer Himself again and again. His intercession continues because He lives forever.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How can you live as if Christ is reigning on the throne? What does it mean to submit to God in every area of your life? What does that mean to you?
- If God were to send Jesus right now, what would He say about you?
- What does it mean for you to rest your head everyday on the pillow of God's sovereignty (to paraphrase Charles Spurgeon's quote)?
- If God were to take you up, would he allow you into heaven? On what basis?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Question: What do you think Jesus is doing right now?

- We often think about what Jesus has already done on earth. And we talk about future things He will do. But what about the present?
- Thinking about the Ascension of Christ will help us think about what He is doing right now.

Passage:

Acts 1:9-11

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

EXPOSITION

Jesus' ministry includes being the prophet, priest, and king.

- Even in his Ascension, Jesus reflected this as well.
- While Jesus' sacrifice is finished, Jesus' ministry continues.

Context of Passage:

Acts 1:1-2

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Acts 1:3-5

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Jesus talked about:
 - the kingdom of God to come, and
 - the Spirit to come to empower them.

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Disciples asked about when the future promises will occur.
 - But Jesus replied that the focus should instead be about being witnesses of Christ (the Gospel of Jesus Christ)
- Likewise, people today tend to focus on the future and what is to come.
 - But we should instead be witnesses to others in the present.

Overview

- I. Trust the King who reigns over you
- II. Depend upon the Savior who ministers for us.
- III. Serve the Lord who will return for you.

I. TRUST THE KING WHO REIGNS OVER YOU (v.9)

Acts 1:9

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

a cloud took him out of their sight.

- Sign of divine nature.

Where was He taken up? (See v. 11)
who was taken up from you into heaven,

- What is heaven?

Heaven

- In the Bible, this refers to three things:
 - The visible sky
 - The cosmos
 - God's dwelling place (heavenly realm where God is revealed and is worshipped)

2 Corinthians 12:2 (Paul caught up in third heaven)

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

- God's heavenly abode is what is being referred to ("third" heaven)

Heaven is God's dwelling place

- Does not mean that God is confined there. Even the highest heavens cannot contain Him.
- Heaven is where God makes His glory known in a special way.
- Scripture portrays it as a His throne room.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

- See last chapter in Bible with a description of heaven.

John 14:2-3

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

- Jesus spoke of heaven

Hebrews 9:24

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Observation: Jesus did not leave His humanity behind.

- After Jesus resurrected, he even ate to show He had a new glorified body (and not a ghost).
- Today, Jesus is still human but in a glorified body.
 - The scars in his hand still existed after his resurrection.

His visible departure showed Jesus' presence on earth was coming to an end.

- see Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah:

Daniel 7:13-14

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- "son of man" = meant that the Messiah would be a human who could bring all the kingdoms under his dominion.
- Who is this? Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus described Himself as the "Son of man" repeatedly.

- This is a picture of Jesus who has come home after His ascension.

Psalms 24:10

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

- Jesus is the "king of glory" described here.

Psalms 110:1

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

- Jesus sits on the right hand of God the Father.
- Jesus was king before and is now proven king after His resurrection.
- While Jesus disappeared from His disciples' sight, He entered heaven in glory.

What does this mean today?

- Jesus is the ultimate ruler.
- He requires us to trust and submit to Him.
- In trials as the world goes downward, we must still trust God.
- Jesus is still reigning over all.
- God is good all the time. He is all powerful.
 - We must trust these truths.
- Trust in Jesus doesn't mean you can explain everything that He allows (including hard times).
 - What it does mean is that your life is in the hands of the Savior and He will never abandon you.
- God's kingship demands obedience.
- Question: Are you submitting to God in every area of your life?
 - God's authority reaches into every area of your life.
 - To live for the Ascended King is to obey and trust Him. It should inform the way you live everyday.
 - Pray every day: "Your will, not my will."
- Can you change anything by worrying?
 - No.
 - Instead, rest in God's sovereignty.
- Charles Spurgeon: "Every night I put my head on the bed of God's sovereignty."

II. Depend upon the Savior who ministers for you. (vv. 10-11)

Acts 1:10-11

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus,

who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

What is Jesus doing now?

A. Jesus represents us as our High Priest.

Hebrews 4:14

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- Jesus is the great high priest (He is now the only mediator between us and God).

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- Jesus' sacrifice is complete. He does not offer Himself again and again. His intercession continues because He lives forever.
- Hebrews 7:25 connects our complete salvation with His enduring life and ministry for us.

What should we do with our sin?

- Our instinct is to withdraw.
- Instead we should come forth with our sin. We don't need to prove that we are sorry.
- We come to Jesus knowing that He will receive us.

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- We must come to the Father through Jesus Christ and confess our sins.
- Jesus is the only way we can come to God the Father.
 - Jesus' constant presence is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

B. Jesus continues to build and direct His church here on earth.

- In the Old Testament, Moses went up the mountain to receive the law and then came down and told others about the Law.

- Here, Jesus went up on the "mountain" of ascension, and then empowers us to be his witnesses.

Ephesians 4:8

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

- Jesus ascended so that gifts could be dispersed and bless the church.

III. SERVE THE LORD WHO WILL RETURN FOR YOU. (v. 11)

Revelation 19:11-13

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

- Jesus will return in a physical way.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- Every eye will see him.

Question: Are you ready for His return?

- If God were to send Jesus right now, what would He say about you? Would He consider you as one of His followers or one of His enemies?
- If God were to take you up, would he allow you into heaven? On what basis?
 - Only perfection can make it into God's presence.
 - When you place your trust in Jesus, you can have your sins forgiven and be in a right standing with God.
- Have you put your trust in Christ?
- If a believer, do you live as if Christ is reigning on the throne?
 - Trust in Jesus in all circumstances.
 - Live for the Ascended King.