

## I BELIEVE THE SON ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

Luke 24:50-53

Acts 1:6-11

John 16:4-15

Ephesians 1:18-23

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you feel after completing work or a project that requires demanding physical labor or mental energy?
- What do you already know about where Jesus is now and what he is doing?

It's easy to read the Bible and remember what Jesus *has done* for us. But if we believe he's risen and alive, what is he doing now? The Apostles' Creed declares: "He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty." Join us to study the foundational scriptures that inform this belief so that together we can better understand the truth and importance of Jesus' ascension, his authority, and his continuing work on our behalf. In these truths, we'll find assurance and comfort to strengthen our faith no matter what realities we're facing in the world today.

**Listen:** [\*I Believe the Son Ascended to Heaven\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, as host Dave Bast reflects on the story of Jesus' ascension in Acts 1, he paraphrases the New Testament theologian Tom Wright when he says "As usual, Jesus' answer to the disciples was: Yes, but not the way you think." Why do you think Wright says this? What does this mean? Has there ever been a time in your life when Jesus answered you, but not in the way you expected? What did you learn from that experience?
- In segment 2, Dave and host Scott Hoezee discuss four things Jesus does now from his position of authority in heaven: he prays for us and brings our prayers before God, he is preparing a place for us, he rules over all things as the "cosmic victor," and he protects his people. Reflect on these acts of Jesus. Which one is particularly meaningful for you? Why? How does each one reassure your faith and give you hope?
- In segment 3, Dave and Scott call the Holy Spirit our "living connection to our living Lord." What part of that truth strikes you? Why?
- Consider this quote from Kevin DeYoung's book, *The Good News We Almost Forgot*: "Think about the implications of Christ's ascension. The ascension means we are in heaven, right now. Through union with Christ, we truly are not citizens of this world. Colossians tells us to set our minds on things that are

above, because our lives are hidden with Christ who dwells there (3:2-3)" (p. 96-97). What thoughts or feelings does this quote stir in you? Does knowing you are a citizen of heaven change the way you live? If so, how?

## **Related Passages**

- **Genesis 12:2-3**
- **John 16:7-11**
- **Romans 8:34-39**
- **1 John 2:1-2**
- **John 14:2-3**
- **Hebrews 1:3**
- **Psalm 47:5-7**

## **Conclusion**

As the episode closes, Scott discusses the comfort we have because "Jesus has the last word." What news headlines or situations in the world cause you to worry right now? Does the truth that Jesus has the last word bring you comfort as you live through these situations? Why? How does it help you move forward?

Close your time by reflecting on and praying this prayer from Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer by Kari Kristina Reeves.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you as the One who raised Jesus to the throne of heaven. Please give us what we need in this hour. You are the Heritage of resurrection, the Author of eternal joy. We look to you now, Jesus, as the One who defeated death. In this hour, we look to you, Lord God, as the Firstborn; the Victorious One; the Consummate Life. Pray for us, Jesus, for we do not know how to pray for ourselves. Fill us with your Spirit, and grant us strength, we pray. Grant us trust; grant us renewed faith; and grant us hope, Lord, for we have nowhere else to turn but to you. You alone have the words of eternal life. See us through that which we cannot see; tend to that which we cannot control; manage that which we do not understand. Supplant fear with faith; supplant doubt with trust. We lean into you, our Overcomer, for your legacy to us is joy and life and faith. By faith we now lay hold of you; by faith we trust that you will overcome, for your word says you are faithful to your promises. For the sake of your honor, show yourself faithful to us, Jesus. Give us comfort, give us awareness of your presence, give us your Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name, for the glory of his kingdom, and the splendor of his love, as we run into your arms, O God our Father, Amen (p. 214).

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