

“Jesus Ascends: Now Let’s Get Together and Get To Work!”

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

April 8, 2018

Sermon Series: “Mark’s Gospel: The Crown and The Cross”

Greg Cootsona

THE BIG IDEA

Having conquered death and secured our eternal life, Jesus focuses the disciples’ attention—and ours—on how we live on mission today in light of the resurrection.

GETTING STARTED

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “heaven” or “witness”?
2. Read the Big Idea above. Does that summarize what you heard on Sunday? What else did you hear in Greg’s message? Was there something that left you with a question? Was there a part that particularly spoke to you?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read Acts 1:1-11. (Consider using *The Message*.)

3. How do the verses about Jesus’ ascension into heaven (1-5) relate to the celebration of Christ’s resurrection (particularly from Mark 16) that we celebrated at Easter just over a week ago? What do we learn about the relation between Jesus’ resurrection and his ascension?
4. Consider the topic of the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned several times in this passage. What does it mean “to be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (verse 5) or to receive the Spirit as a gift from God the Father (verse 8)?
5. In verse 11, the two “men” in white (probably angels) ask, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?” Greg suggested this question implies that the apostles and early Christians, as they sought to follow Jesus, were to be confident that Jesus is now in heaven with God the Father and to focus on the mission that God had for them on earth. How does this apply to followers of Jesus today?
6. The rest of the book of Acts describes the early Christian community going out as witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (verse 8). What did that look like then, and what does that look like today?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

7. Respond to the statement: "All Christians are given power by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses, but not all are evangelists." Do you agree? What's the difference between a "witness" and an "evangelist"? How can you be a witness?

THE "EXTRA-MILE"

8. Commit to praying for one another this week, specifically about being witnesses wherever God has placed you. Ask God to help you, as a small group, to discover what this means!

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES *(optional)*

Tim Keller, *Jesus the King*. Penguin, 2013.

N. T. Wright. *Acts for Everyone*. 2 volumes. Westminster, 2008.