

## The Apostle's Creed: The Ascension



### Overview of the message:

1) What is the ascension?

It was a real, physical, historical event (accounts in Luke and Acts). It is prefaced in the Old Testament (Elijah and Enoch ascending to God without dying). "Going up" to meet with God is symbolic and significant (Moses ascending the mountain, Psalms of Ascents). The ascension points to Jesus' earthly work being finished and He is enthroned in a place of honour in heaven (Daniel 7).

2) Why is it essential?

The ascension is essential because it "seals the deal" of Jesus' death and resurrection. It confirms that the way is now open for people to enter in to God's presence. Before the way was blocked because of our sin, and the system of sacrifices and priesthood given in the Old Testament wasn't enough to fix things. Now because of Jesus, we are seated with Jesus in heavenly places - our identity is wrapped up in Him.

3) What does it mean for us, today?

The ascension means that all our human desires to ascend (or move up in the world) are met in Him - we have nothing left to prove and can rest in the Ascended Jesus. It means our expectations are raised when we come to meet with Him. It means that all our shame is taken away. It means our salvation and standing before God are assured.

### Questions

1. Read Hebrews 4:16-16 together. How does understanding this ascension of Jesus' presence as a man, into God's presence, give us confidence to approach God. (This could be used as a meditation)
2. We all have desires to ascend/move up in the world in different ways, but in Jesus' ascension we've reached the top – we're seated with Him in the heavenly realms. How can this truth impact us in our jobs/relationships/family life? In pairs: try to share areas that you know you often want to 'move up' and which of these are ok and which are unhelpful. Ask God to help you find your identity in him
3. Read Eph 2:6-7. How does understanding the ascension illuminate this for you? If Jesus is now reigning at God's right hand and calls us to do the same what does this mean? How does the servant King re-define reigning and ruling?