

# "Don't Sleep on the Ascension"

Luke 24:50-53

[New Small Group Leader interest form](#)

## LEARN

[Tracing God's Story: What is Biblical Theology?](#) (29:05) Biblical theology is a discipline that seeks to discover theology (truth about God and his work) through the gradual and progressive revelation of his saving plan in the story of the Bible. This is often done by tracing certain themes or ideas through Scripture from beginning to end—Genesis to Revelation.

Supplemental books/workbooks can be purchased [here](#)

1. Read Luke 24:50-53. What stood out to you from the passage and sermon?
2. How does the "U-shaped pattern" (The journey from heaven to earth in the incarnation, and back to heaven in the ascension) of Christ's ministry demonstrate that His work is successfully finished?
  - a. From **Condescension to Exaltation**: His ministry began with glorious condescension and humble incarnation and ends here with glorious exaltation; He has returned bodily to the Father, no longer under earthly limitations.
  - b. **The Seated Priest**: Unlike Old Testament priests who never sat down because their work was never over, Jesus "sat down" at the Father's right hand because His work of purification for sins is once-for-all finished.
3. Discuss how the Ascension serves as the "coronation" of Jesus as King.
  - a. **The "Ancient of Days"** has presented the "Son of Man" in the Daniel 7 prophecy and has given him an everlasting dominion. He is reigning now as King of kings over the cosmos.
  - b. **The ascension marks His triumph over Satan**; as He is exalted to the name above every name, every enemy is currently being placed under His feet.

## PRACTICE

1. Pastor Scott mentioned that we often fall into the trap of thinking Jesus' physical presence on earth would be "preferable." How does the reality of the Ascension actually provide a "better" advantage for the believer today?

- a. As Jesus taught in John 16:7, it is to our advantage that He went away so that the Holy Spirit would come; now, Christ is not just present "with" the church locally but "in" the church globally.
2. "Missions exists because worship doesn't." How should our "life-dominating joy" in the ascended Lord fuel our witness to others?
  - a. Cherish to Commend: You cannot commend what you do not cherish; if we do not prize the Lordship of Christ in our own worship, we will lack the drive to proclaim it to the nations.
  - b. We must see ourselves not just as followers of a teacher, but as instruments in the hands of the ascended King, sent to proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all people.

## CHANGE

1. What needs to shift in your thinking regarding the "session" (the current seated position) of Jesus?
  - a. Stop living as if Jesus is "hibernating" or passive until His return; we must acknowledge Him as the active King who is currently interceding for you as your Advocate.
  - b. Priority of Doctrine: Repent of treating the Ascension as a "skipped" or "minor" doctrine and begin to rest in it as the Father's cosmic approval of the Son's work.
2. Is there something that needs to change in how you respond to Christ as King?
  - a. Are you merely "near" the things of God; continually in the church building, without being truly surrendered to His authority?
  - b. Obedience with Joy: The disciples responded to His departure with "great joy" and immediate obedience. Evaluate if your service to Christ is begrudging and forced or fueled by the joy of His exaltation.