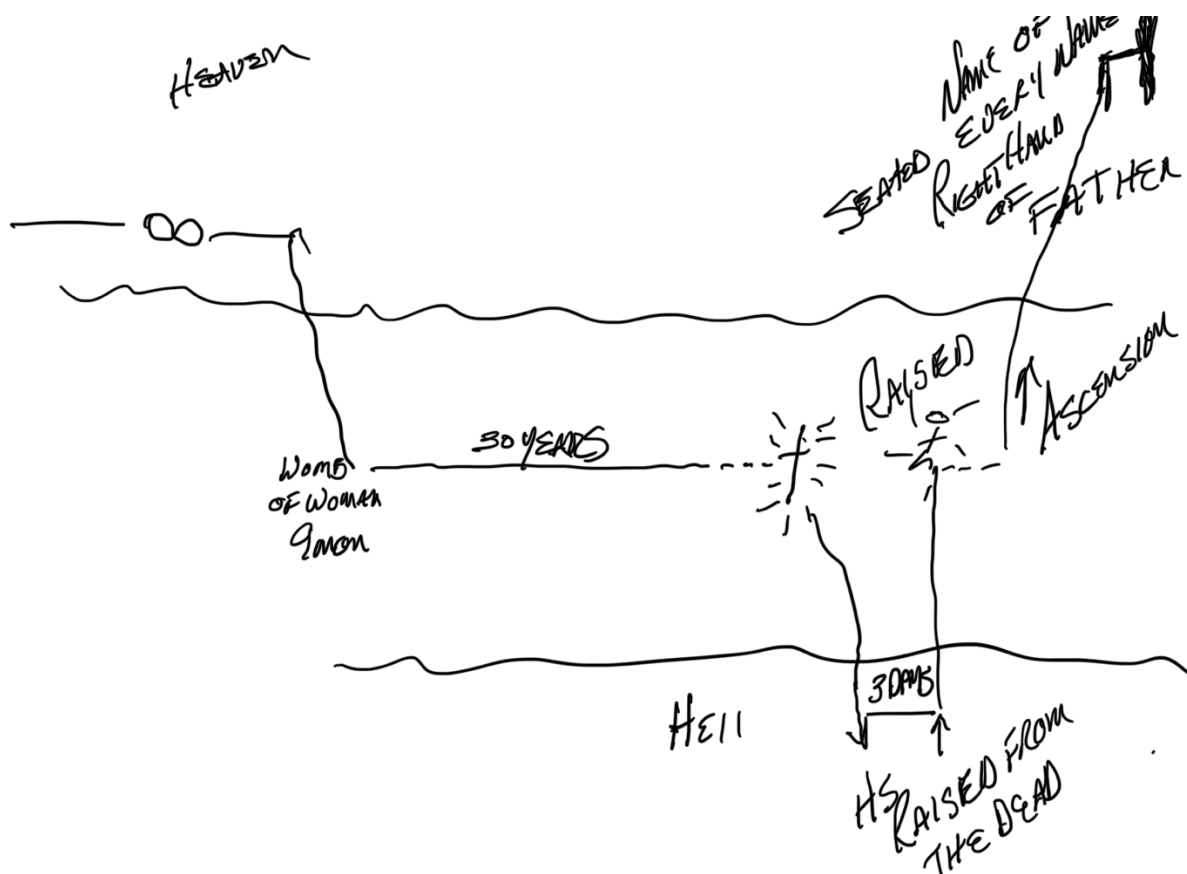


## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

- When did you go “all in with Jesus”?
  - Example: If your faith was a poker game, when did you push all your chips to the middle of the table and bet it all on Jesus?
  - The disciples “went all in” after the Ascension, what affect has Jesus’ ascension had on your faith and love for Jesus?



What are your favorite epics or stops on the journey of Jesus’ forever? Pick one and explain.

1. Eternally Begotten – Eternity past
2. Conceived and the following 9 months in Mary’s womb
3. 28 years of Obedience, Normalcy and Righteous living
4. 3 years of Public Ministry
5. Crucifixion
6. 3 Days in Hell
7. The resurrection
8. The Ascension
9. Exalted above Every Name – Seated at the Right hand of God
10. The Wedding Feast of the Lamb – Not pictured in drawing
11. New Heaven and New Earth Forever Epic

## 2. Worship: Jesus' Humiliation and Exaltation

- Praise, Honor and Worship Jesus for His humiliation in his work and willingness to become a man, a servant, to death and even death on the cross for you.
- Praise, Honor and Worship Jesus for His exaltation in his being raised from the dead and his ascension into heaven by Holy Spirit and now sits at the right hand of His Father.
- Praise, Honor and Worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit that you are now on mission and mission-able. Jesus was sent for us. Holy Spirit is sent into us. We are then sent, missioned, by Father, Holy Spirit and Jesus into the world to love our neighbor to love God.

## 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US... From the Worship Folder

1. Worship the LORD for His love and delight to redeem lost and sinful people like us! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His grace and His eternal purposes to save!
2. How have you lived as if God's mission is at odds or irrelevant to your life mission? Confess your pride and self-will to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to reconcile your heart to His heart for the lost.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His eternal mission and the beauty of His willingness to come down in order to raise us up. Thank Him for *His work, His Person, His provision* to save people like us.
4. Who do you know that lives with a clear sense of mission in following Jesus? Pray for them, asking the Lord to strengthen them for sustained faithfulness, and to help you to learn from them as best as you can.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of faithfulness. Pray for a sense of your security under Jesus' rule, and a heart like His for the lost, that His Spirit would equip you for your part in His mission.

## 4. Sermon Reflection:

Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, <sup>i</sup>will you at this time <sup>k</sup>restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, <sup>l</sup>"It is not for you to know <sup>m</sup>times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive <sup>n</sup>power<sup>o</sup> when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and <sup>a</sup>you will be <sup>q</sup>my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and <sup>r</sup>Samaria, and <sup>s</sup>to the end of the earth." <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, <sup>t</sup>he was lifted up, and <sup>u</sup>a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, <sup>v</sup>two <sup>w</sup>men stood by them in <sup>x</sup>white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, <sup>y</sup>"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, <sup>z</sup>will <sup>a</sup>come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

## Eph 1:19-23

<sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.<sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**What is going on? What does Jesus' ascension mean?**

Jesus is restored to his rightful place at the right hand of the Father

- Tim's professor uses the Jesus washing the disciple's feet in John 13
  - Jesus is at the head of the table
    - Rises and kneels at the disciple's feet
      - Jesus washes their feet
    - Rises and returns to the table
  - Sits at his rightful place

The whole act is a pic of the story of Jesus' journey to save.

## 4 Steps of His Return

1. Jesus returns to Heaven
2. Jesus sits at His Father's Right Hand
3. Jesus is Co-Regent with the Father
4. Jesus is "for us"

What part of this aspect of Jesus' journey comforts you the most during this time?

Which part fascinates you the most?

**Why is this difficult? Doubting from the top and bottom!**

## Doubting from the Top

- His Kingship, His Authority, His Power
- His promises and claims
- "God exists for my comfort and pleasure"
- "God if you don't do what I want and make me happy I will not believe you"

## Doubting from the Bottom

- Misunderstand His Mission
- Miss His Timeframe
- Don't Like or Enjoy His Mission for Us

**What if it is true? How then is Jesus continuing His original True Mission?**

Jesus makes a 2 phased descent and 2 phased ascension

- Descent
  - Highest Heaven to Mary's Womb
  - The Cross to the deepest atmospheres of Hell
- Ascent
  - The Resurrection from deepest Hell to the Tomb
  - Earth back the Highest Heaven, Home with His Dad

Syncing with Jesus. Jesus being yours!

- Tim used the example of his new phone
  - It was his when he bought it.
  - It was not "really his" till he synced it up.
- Most folks "sync" with Jesus' descent to humanity and hell.
- Few believers "sync" with his ascension to heaven.

How which is easier for you to enjoy and believe?

- His descent or ascension?
- Which is easier for you sync with?
  - Why?

**What are the joys and implications for you in both his descension and ascension?**

## 5. Mission: Christians, all Christians are people on mission! Made for MISSION!

There is a grave danger to not knowing your mission. My Dad would often say, "the worst thing you can do to a boy is give him time and money". He was describing that freedom is dangerous for a mission-less person. There is a missionary in Argentina that noted the most important thing that he does each week is schedule every moment of his day. NO thoughtless moments.

There is a saying: **I don't schedule sin. I sin when I don't schedule.**

- What is the mission God has sent you here to do?
- What happens if you don't know or follow the mission you have been given?
- God is a sending God:
  - God sent Jesus!
    - John 3:16. For God so loved the world He SENT his only Son ....
  - Jesus sent Holy Spirit
    - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.
  - God sent \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

- \_\_\_\_\_ . (your mission statement here. Remember we all are on mission but most have not written it down. Have fun. Relax. Think of your gifts and calling, your work and hobbies, your home and habits. Then scribble something down.)
- Example: Strawbridge Mission Statement: To love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength and love our neighbor as ourselves by doing as much good as you can for as many people as we can for as long as we can