



Sermon series: What If?!

Text: Luke 24:44-53; John 16:5-11

Delivered: April 7th, 2024

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What If Jesus Didn't Ascend Back to Heaven?

BIG IDEA: The ascension of Jesus is the capstone of our salvation!

If Jesus DID NOT Ascend. . .

1. Our _____ could not be _____ (Daniel 7:13-14)
2. Our _____ would not be _____ (Lev. 16:11-13; Hebrews 6-10)
3. Our _____ would not be _____ (John 10:27-29)
4. Our _____ could not _____ (John 16:4-15)
5. Our _____ would have no _____ (Hebrews 4:14-16)
6. Our _____ would have no _____ (John 20:28-29; 1 Peter 1:7-9)
7. Our _____ could not _____ (Philippians 3:20; Acts 3:21)

Because Jesus DID Ascend, we have. . .

1. A _____ who is in _____
2. A _____ who is _____
3. An _____ who is _____
4. A _____ that is _____

“Would you rather be Superman or Batman; Wonder Woman or Captain Marvel?” or “If you were given an all-expense paid moth-long vacation anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go?” “What if the South had won the Civil War?”

We all seem to be fascinated by hypothetical questions, but in every single case, the answer to those hypothetical questions drastically changes your present and future. This is particularly true with the doctrines of Christianity. Pastor Joel listed a number of “What If” questions about our faith. What would happen if “God was not involved in the world?” “Jesus never came to this earth?” “Jesus gave in to temptation?” or “Jesus never rose from the dead?”

Have you ever thought about why Jesus did or needed to ascend back to Heaven? Before this message, what did you believe the reason for it was?

Given the choice, would you prefer that Jesus had stayed on earth? Why or why not?

Which of the reasons for Jesus needing to Ascend back to Heaven surprised you? Which reason impacts you the most?

How does the ascension of Jesus affect the way you live your life as His follower today? What changes because He is no longer here? What confidence does it give you to live your life for Him in the here and now?

How does the ascension of Jesus change or impact our future? How does the promise of His return provide hope and confidence to you? What are you looking forward to the most about His return?

Once you understand how important the ascension is and foundational to our salvation, you begin to see it all throughout the Bible – both Old and New Testaments. For example, **scan or read Hebrews chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10** and see how many references and allusions to Jesus’ ascension you can find.

While **sharing** the Gospel may still focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, how does our **understanding** of the Gospel change when we consider the importance of Jesus’ perfect life, substitutionary death, powerful resurrection, triumphal ascension and glorious return?

**RECOMMENDED
RESOURCE:**

Salvation Accomplished by the Son: The Work of Christ
by Robert A. Peterson

