

"The Ascension" Acts 1:1-11

1. Where do you see an absence of hope in our world? What impact does this have on our humanity?

Read Acts 1:1-11

2. The ascension gives us an eternal hope, telling us that Jesus is reigning over the cosmos directing it toward its perfect end – and that he will return to make all things new. How will this truth impact how we feel, think, behave?
3. (9-11) How did the sermon change or clarify your view of the ascension? How will it impact your life as a follower of Jesus? How will it impact our corporate lives as a Jesus community in mission?
4. (6) Jesus gives the disciples in the 40 days of teaching a vision of the kingdom. Here it becomes apparent they are missing what Jesus is revealing. Where do we / have we fallen into the same errors as the disciples – anticipating a political – nationalistic – immediate kingdom? Where does Jesus' vision of the reign of God through the holy Spirit – where there are no barriers to entry – where there is steady gradual advancement – need to correct us?

5. I once read a tweet “First century results require first century dependence” Our life and vibrancy as Christians and as a church is utterly dependant upon the work of the Holy Spirit. Where do you see this truth in our passage? Where do we need to be invited to such a dependency as individuals and as a local church?

6. (1) It becomes clear from our text that we are not to sit idly by and wait for Jesus’ return to make all things new but to live into Jesus’ reign by continuing the words and works of Jesus. What is at the heart of what Jesus did and taught? What is your initial reaction to the call to the church to be a part of continuing what Jesus did and taught?

7. What part of what Jesus did and taught most excites you to be a part of? When you consider what aspects of the ministry of Jesus you see absent in the local church – what frustrates you the most?

8. In what ways can the church embodying the hope of the Kingdom have an impact on the hopelessness we see around us?