

Small Group Guide

10/10/21

Acts 1:8-11 - The Mission and Ascension of Jesus Christ

Sermon Outline

The book of Acts:

↑	Jesus went up	Jesus ascended
↓	Holy Spirit came down	Spirit descended
→	Church sent out	Church commissioned

“And afterwards, when he had risen from the dead and appeared to them, and had taught them to read the prophecies in which all these things were foretold as coming to pass, and when they had seen him ascending into heaven, and had believed, and had received power sent by him upon them, and went to every race of men, they taught these things, and were called apostles.” - Justin Martyr, *First Apology* 50:12, c. AD 155

1. The Mission of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8)

- *Christ's Mission (His mission, His idea)
- *Mission of Witness/Testimony - proclaim the Person/Work of Christ - personal, firsthand experience of what Jesus has done!
- *Costly Mission - μάρτυς (martus) - “martyrs”
- *Worldwide mission - starting where they were to the end of the world
- *Possible Mission - impossible in ourselves/possible with Spirit's power!

2. The Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:9-11)

- *Supernatural Event - Jesus rules over laws of nature. (“lifted up”)
- *Supernatural Glory - Jesus was hidden by a cloud of glory. (“cloud” - in Bible)
- *Supernatural Promise - Jesus will come again! (will come in the same way)
- *Supernatural Effect - Jesus took out humanity back with Him! Heaven opened for a man! (Psalm 24 - heaven 4x)

3. The Realities of the Ascension!

Jesus went up to:

- *Secure our redemption as Savior (Heb. 9:11-14)
- *Represent us as Advocate (1 Jn 2:1-2)
- *Intercede for us as High Priest (Heb. 7:25)
- *Sit down as Lord of all (Heb. 1:3-4, Phil. 2:9-11, Eph. 1:20-23)
- *Send the Holy Spirit down upon us and send us out (Acts 2:32-36)

Small Group Questions:

1. What spoke to you in the sermon?
2. Acts 1:8 is the mission mandate from Christ. If the mission is viewed merely as optional, how does this stop effectiveness for individual believers and the church?
3. What is a witness? What is our role as Christ's witnesses? How does knowing that the Greek word for "witness" is "μάρτυς" ("martus") change how we think about Christian witness?
4. Where is Christ's mission aimed? How did the different geographical areas in Acts 1:8 apply to the early church and how do these areas apply to us today?
5. Have you ever considered the enormous implications of the ascension of Jesus? What is the most amazing part of the ascension to you?
6. Discuss the different realities of the ascension (Christ as Savior, Advocate, High Priest, Lord, etc.). Which have you never considered before? Which speaks to you the strongest?
7. How are the sending of the Holy Spirit and the sending of the church connected to the ascension of Jesus? Why is it so important to connect these three together?

Next week's passage: Acts 1:12-26 — Read together if you have time.