

**SCRIPTURE: Luke:50-53 (ESV)**

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

*The Ascension of Jesus Christ means that...*

**I. HE REIGNS**

Jesus ascended to the right hand of God, the Father

**Acts 2:33a (NLT)**- Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand...

The One who would sit at God's right hand would be the King who reigns over all  
**Psalm 110:1 (ESV)**- The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.

Understanding that Jesus reigns allows us to *take heart*, even in the midst of a broken world

**John 16:33b (ESV)**- In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**II. HE IS WITH US**

Without the ascension, we do not have Christ with us always

**John 16:7b (ESV)**- 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.

By the Holy Spirit, there isn't a moment that Jesus is not with us

**III. HE IS FOR US**

Jesus ascended to the right hand of God, not only to reign, but to intercede for us  
**Romans 8:34 (ESV)**- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Jesus' intercession ensures that we can always draw near to God

**Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)**- Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you find yourself having trouble believing that Jesus truly reigns when the world around you appears to be crumbling? Why or why not? What can help you to trust and know that Jesus truly reigns?
2. If Jesus Christ truly reigns, how should this impact the way you live day to day?
3. How have you experienced the presence of Christ with you this past week? How can you experience more of His presence with you this coming week?
4. How should you respond to the fact that Christ is interceding for you at the right hand of God? Are you responding this way? Why or why not?