



# Central Telford Parish

Week Beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## “Ascension - What’s That About?”

### • **Introduction**

Ascension Day is when we remember the final moments of Jesus’ life on earth when, watched by his disciples, he ascended to reign with his Father in Heaven. His Kingdom is like no other: for a start, we have a choice as to whether we want to be a part of it. But if we do, then we need to understand the responsibilities as well as the rewards that citizenship brings us. And one of the greatest benefits is being part of a Kingdom that will never fall.

### • **Welcome**

If you could award a medal to someone in Telford for being a “model” citizen, who would it be and why?

### • **Worship**

Read Revelation 7:9-17 Picture the scene in your mind and spend some time praising God for the amazing scene that John was able to witness. If you have access to listen to worship songs, it may be helpful to play one either as you read the passage or as you contemplate it.

### • **Word**

## **Jesus Ascended**

Read Acts 1:1 - 11

- Why did Jesus remain on earth for 40 days after the Resurrection?
- Why did Jesus leave his disciples in this way?
- Why was it important for him to return to heaven anyway?

The disciples were promised that

- They would be baptised with the Holy Spirit (v5)
- They would receive power (v8)
- They would be his witnesses (v8)
- Jesus would return in the same manner (v11)

Why were these promises important?

## **Jesus Ascended to receive Glory, Honour and Power**

Look up these verses and ask “*what do you understand these words to mean?*”

- ❖ John 17:5 - It was a return to **Glory**
- ❖ Acts 2:33, Philippians 2:9- Jesus was **exalted**
- ❖ Revelation 5:12 - It was to receive **worthy** praise

Look at the things in Revelation 5:12 of which Jesus is “worthy” and examine each of the 7 reasons in turn - why is Jesus worthy to receive these things?

## **Jesus Ascended to “Sit Down”**

- ❖ The old word “session” (as in “this court is in session”) refers to being seated’
- ❖ What is the importance of a monarch being seated?
- ❖ What is the significance of Jesus being seated at the right hand of God?

If you have time ...

Read Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 1:3, Ephesians 1:20 - 21 and 1 Peter 3:22

- ❖ Why was Jesus Ascension important? How did he earn these rights?

Read Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

- v11 The offering of a sacrifice was necessary for sin
- v12 The once-for-all sacrifice meant Jesus' priestly work was done
- v14 The forgiveness of sin means the barrier to God is gone
- v19 Therefore, because of Jesus' sacrifice ...
- v20 ... the barrier, the curtain, is gone!
- v21 Because the priest is at the right hand of God ...
- v22 .... we can have confidence to enter God's presence.
- v23ff Keep to the faith, encourage each other and keep meeting together

In other words - because of Jesus, the barrier of sin is removed and the way to God is clear. We can be confident to approach the throne and enjoy a relationship with God.

## **Jesus' Ascension and Us**

- ❖ Ephesians 2:6 - We shall sit with him
- ❖ John 14:1-6 - Jesus will be there to welcome us!
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:3 - We will not be idle, we have work to do
- ❖ Revelation 2:26-27, 3:21 In the meantime, we must be faithful members of the Kingdom, undertaking the work God has for us now!

### • **Works**

- What does it mean to be a model citizen under the kingship of Jesus?
- In what ways are we tempted to break or bend the laws of his kingdom?
- We have been given a personal relationship with the king - in what ways is it possible to abuse that relationship?
- How do we make sure we don't?
- And in what positive ways can we help build the kingdom?

Spend some time asking God to help us in each of these areas.

### • **A thought to finish with ....**

I have never met the Queen but I am assured by those who have that there are specific instructions about what to say and what not to say - and even how to shake hands!

Contrast that with the King who comes knocking on our door wanting to come in and eat with us (Rev 3:20) and we get a taste of the awesome nature of the King we worship.

Whilst that intimacy is to be treasured, it is vital that we do not take lightly our relationship with the Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords but find ourselves lost in awe and wonder at the gift of Salvation won for us on the Cross. Equally, though, this same King wants to come to our house and join us for a meal ... it's quite a balance to get right!