

Acts of Jesus 2: He ascended notes

- If I were picking a religion today, I would want one that spoke with clarity and authority about life beyond the grave.
- A fairly brief study of other religions would reveal that the history of their founders stops abruptly with their deaths.
- What is Confucius or Mohamed or Hare Krishna doing today? No one knows not even their most devoted followers.
- Christian faith is vastly different: Our founder, Jesus Christ, was crucified and resurrected on the third day and these took place exactly as they had been predicted and written down hundreds of years before.
- Our leader is alive and well. -----What is Jesus doing today? That question is answered in the book of Acts
- This is what happened to Jesus: after His resurrection, He moved to a new location.

1. We're going to take a look at Jesus' ascension and its relevance for our lives : Acts 1:9-11

- The Ascension raises some big questions – probably, the biggest is “**WHY???**”
- What if He'd stayed?

2. First, let's considered what His ascension meant to Heaven.

- Get a hint from something Jesus says in His prayer in John 17:4-5
- Not only was His reception great but who He brought with Him was spectacular as well: Eph. 4:8
- The Bible described the end of that reception this way: Eph. 1:19-23
- He had to ascend to take His place as undisputed Lord.

3. Let's consider what His ascension meant for us here on earth.

1. First of all it meant His ministry expanded on earth and became more powerful.

- During His 3-year earthly ministry He was limited geographically
- But when He regained the glory and authority and dimensionality that he had always had with the Father His ministry took on the same glory and authority and dimensionality.
- This is why He could say: Acts 1:8 --how much power?: Eph. 1:19-23 why He could also say: Jn. 14:12

2. Second, it meant we have an ever faithful and effect prayer partner.

Rom. 8:34

3. Third, it meant we have an Advocate in Heaven. 1 Jn. 2:1-2.,

Heb. 7:25

4. Fourth, it meant we have a Helper, Comforter, a Counselor

Jn. 16:5,7,

5. We have God closer to us than He was to any of His disciple's while

He walked this earth: **Jn. 14:17**

6. Finally, He's preparing a place in Heaven for us. Jn. 14:1-2

- Unlike all other religions and religious leaders, Jesus isn't dead, Jesus Is alive and well and active on our behalf
- Can you think of any one more qualified to be your God?