

WHAT DOES JESUS DO THAT ONLY HE CAN DO?

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**WORSHIP GOD IN CHRIST FOR IN JESUS ALONE ARE SINS COVERED,
ISOLATION REMOVED AND ACCUSERS DEFEATED.**

Luke 24 ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

Acts 1. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ **And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.**

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus**, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way** as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalms 104 ³ He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; **he makes the clouds his chariot**; he rides on the wings of the wind;

Mark 14 ^{61b} Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, **and coming with the clouds of heaven.**"

Introduction: *The Apostles' Creed:* He ascended into heaven...

ONE: Worship Jesus because you're worse and worse off than you think, but God in Jesus has covered your sin. Luke 24.51b

The Spirit convicts concerning sin because God did the necessary and radical thing of coming to us in his Son and we rejected him. *John 16.9*

God came to us in flesh: bodily birth, bodily resurrection, bodily ascension!

We either make too much or too little of creation.

Jesus didn't come to help weak hearts; he came to replace hearts full of idolatry with eternal hearts full of worship.

TWO: Worship Jesus because he alone can fulfill your longing for lasting community, for being known, accepted and loved. Luke 24.51b

The Spirit convicts concerning righteousness because Jesus alone is sinless, bore God's judgment for others' sin & sits face to face with the Father. *John 16.10*

So much communication – so little lasting community and care.

If you want to be held by someone who will never have to let you go...

THREE: Worship Jesus because in him all the accusers of your heart and mind and soul are defeated. Luke 24.52

The Spirit convicts concerning judgment because God's judging Jesus guilty for others' sins condemns this world, the flesh and the devil once and forever; Christ Jesus will come bodily from heaven bringing full redemption to his own, making both heaven and earth anew. *John 16.11*

God brings blessing out of judgment...

Luke 15 – There was a man who had three sons...

Interact with these thoughts/questions:

1. In an age that either takes our bodies too seriously or not seriously enough how is thinking of Jesus' bodily ascension and its pointing to our bodily arrival in a new heaven and new earth a corrective which can help us live well now?
2. Meditate on some of the hurts and longings you have for lasting community and friendship. Then worship Christ for the assurance he gives us of eternal fellowship with him and with his Father (1John 1), remembering that for believers the fellowship has already begun.
3. How does Luke, chapter 15 demonstrate that Jesus is revealing to the Pharisees and scribes what the Father is really like? How do Christ's incarnation, ministry of gathering & ascension show him to be the true older brother who really does the will of the Father?