Ascending & Descending (John 3:13)

Tony Mauck · John 3:13

INTRODUCTION

- But this first part, no one has ascended into heaven. Now that's a bit puzzling. Because when Jesus makes this statement, he has not yet ascended.
- And this was Owen's very apt question. Were there not others who had ascended into heaven? But what about Enoch?
- One of the things you always need to do when you encounter a puzzling statement in the scripture is to see what surrounds it.

1 Jesus Is Uniquely Qualified to Speak of Heavenly Things

John 3:12–13; John 3:2; Proverbs 30:2–6

- Jesus is uniquely qualified to speak of heavenly things.
- There's something unique about Jesus in regard to speaking of heavenly things, and it's because of his presence with and connection to the source of those heavenly things.
- Rabbi, we know that you have come from God as a teacher. For no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with them.
- Who has wrapped the waters in his garments? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name? Or his son's name? Surely you know.
- Every word of God is tested. He is a shield for those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words lest he reprove you, and you be proved a liar.
- You want something reliable and solid and trustworthy and dependable for your life. I'm not the guy. God's word is what you need.

2 Nicodemus, Know Who I Am

John 3:14–16; John 1:1–12

- Nicodemus. I am the one who has been in the presence of God and has come to earth to reveal heavenly things in a way that have never been revealed before. Know who I am.
- And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes may in him have eternal life.
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. He descended from heaven. That whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- The Son of Man reveals God's eternal plan in living color to us.
- He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. Nicodemus, is that going to be you?
- And to him who believes, he gave the right to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on his name.

3 Jesus, the Word, Uniquely Redeems and Salvages

- Jesus, the word uniquely redeems and salvages and fills my soul. No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended, even the Son of Man.
- When sin is on our account. We need redemption.
- It's the idea of recovering ownership. It is the paying off of a debt. It's to serve as compensation for. It is a conversion of something. It is to restore the honor, worth, and reputation of something.
- Without Jesus, our lives are misspent and less than what God designed for them to be.

4 The Choice Between Meaningless and Meaningful

- It's about choosing what is ultimate in regard to meaning. It's about meaningless or meaningful. That's the choice of being Christian.
- And while there is meaning in the other, there is ultimate meaning in serving in the kingdom.
- I don't want my life to count for trash and rubbish. And so it is if I'm lost.
- Why have I been here? How will I be remembered? And more importantly, how will heaven regard it?
- And unless I identify in God's way with the purpose of all history, I will have failed.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you prepared to give him all that you have to give? Lift your voices first by confessing the name of Jesus before men. And then confess him all your days as you live your life for him.

MY NOTES