

**SERMON SERIES: The Rescue**  
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## Key Line

Jesus let go of heaven, so he could take hold of me.

## Introduction

What are you holding tightly to? What occupies your time and energy? Why are you holding tightly to those things?

- We hold most tightly to the things that matter to us, that we think are most important.
- From Jesus' perspective YOU are what he wants to hold tightly to.

## Seek the Word

"[Jesus] came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

- The lost are separated from God.
- To save means to rescue from danger.

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1-4, 14

- The Word refers to Jesus—the perfect expression of God and his will.
- Jesus was the eternal co-creator of the universe.
- Jesus makes available the best life possible.
- Jesus chose to live with us. He let go of heaven to make this choice.
- Jesus came to offer grace—undeserved favor; and truth—what is right under any circumstances.

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11

- The result of Jesus letting go of heaven to take hold of you, is that he gets heaven back and gets you too.

- Heaven for Jesus was not enough. You needed to be there in order for it to be heaven for him.

## **Talk About It**

1. What are you holding tightly to? What occupies your time and energy? Why do you think you hold on to those things so tightly?
2. How do you view yourself? Is it possible you are holding tightly to some things in your life because you feel they will validate you or give you a sense of worth? How would this change if you saw yourself as Jesus sees you?
3. What would it look like in your life to loosen your grip on some of what you are holding tightly? Practically speaking, what changes would you have to make in your life?
4. What might be the results of making this kind of change? What might be better and what might be worse in your life? Do you think the change would be worth the effort?
5. After letting go of heaven for you, Jesus got heaven back and got you too. Do you think it is possible that God wants you to release things that you hold most tightly, in order to give those things back to you to enjoy them more freely and abundantly than you are now? Describe what a scenario like that might look like.
6. Share with the group one specific action you feel God would like you to take this week in response to this lesson.