

Easter Resurrections from Luke 24

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Easter Apr 17th

An understanding of the Resurrection is at the center of our faith. The Disciples had to go through a process before they could comprehend and experience the power of the resurrection. The Disciples had been in hiding for three days, each wrestling with the reality of Christ's death and the inevitability of their own. Easter changed EVERYTHING! God brought the news of the resurrection to different people in different ways. In this chapter, three distinct "groups" of believers are visited with the news.

1. To the Faithful: *The Resurrection Of Peace.*

A. THOSE THAT SEEK ARE THE FIRST TO FIND. (The Ladies come first)

- 1) The ladies "sought" in order to "serve" their master. (Luke 24:1-9)
- 2) Jesus promises Peace to those who truly seek him. (Jer 29:13,14; Mt 7:7; Jn 14:27)
- 3) God greeted them with angelic messengers. Vs 5-7
- 4) Since "Peace" (eirene) comes from partnering with God, God gave them a more productive "service". Mt 28:7; Lk 24:9

B. THE OTHER DISCIPLES WERE SLOW TO BELIEVE AND RECEIVE IT.

(Luke 24:11) "And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."

- 1) Peter and John investigated but saw no angels or Christ. Verse 11-12
- 2) They "sought" in order to satisfy their minds. (Curiosity)
- 3) Instead of Peace, they received "perplexity." (vs 12)

2. To the Confused: *The Resurrection Of Perspective.* Verses 13-35

A. THEIR CONFUSION CAUSED THEM TO LOSE THEIR CLARITY/ CONFIDENCE.

- 1) We tend to see what we're looking for (and miss what we're not!) VS 15,16
"while they ...reasoned, Jesus drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden ..."
- 2) Our focus can affect our feelings! VS 17
- 3) Our feelings can affect our faith!
 - a) They heard the report of the resurrection, (22-24) but failed to investigate.
 - b) They were so preoccupied with their own agenda (what they wanted) that they couldn't recognize God's! (See verse 19-21)
 - c) This emotional preoccupation (with their own disappointment and agenda) blinded them to the presence of Jesus! VS 16

Do we ever fail to recognize Jesus' will, word or work in, on, & through us for the same reason?

B. JESUS' SOLUTION FOR THEIR EMOTIONAL CONFUSION IS BIBLICAL CLARITY! Vs 25-27

- 1) When God's facts conflict with our feelings, it often produces "heart burn"! vs 32
- 2) Their Hearts had to be opened before their eyes could be!

C. BIBLICAL REPENTANCE (Thinking Differently) PRODUCES OBEDIENCE! Vs 33-35

"they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, (6.5 miles away) and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread."

3. To the Aimless: (*The disciples must have wondered: "what now?"*)

The Resurrection Of Purpose 44-53

A. JESUS REMINDED THEM OF HIS PURPOSE. Verse 44-46

46 *"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:"*

B. HE REMINDED THEM OF THEIR PURPOSE. Verse 47-48 *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

And ye are witnesses of these things."

1) His Peace (vs 36) is related to His Purposes (vs 48)! Mt 11:28-30

C. HE REMINDED THEM OF THE PROMISED SPIRIT. Verse 49 *"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*

1) His Power is related to His Purposes! (See Acts 1:8)

2) The job was bigger than they were.

Only God's Spirit can produce life in a dead heart.

Conclusion:

Luke's Gospel account opens and closes with a scene at the Temple.

In opens (1:5-35) with the Angel Gabriel bringing God's message of hope and purpose to a doubting Zecharias.

It closes (Luke 24:52-53) with Jesus' disciples: *"they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen."*

The difference was the resurrection of Jesus Christ which brought a resurrection of Peace, Perspective, and Purpose.

Jesus' Resurrection is God's Exclamation mark on the Gospel message! (See 1 Cor. 15:3,4)

➤ Our Sin carries a death penalty. Ro. 6:23

➤ Jesus died in our place. (Paid our Penalty!) Ro. 5:8; 1 Cor 15:

Jn 19:30 *"It is finished"* (teleo: Fulfilled, the debt is discharged)

➤ God accepted His sacrifice. 2 Cor 5:21

➤ Since our Debt has been paid, God offers us Pardon and Peace. Ro. 6:23

Ro. 5:1 *"being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

Jn 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Easter divides the world in two groups! Jn 3:36

1) *"He that believeth (pisteuo: entrust, credit) on the Son hath everlasting life:"*

2) *he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

To which Group do you belong?

Easter Illustrations:

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes, and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again. Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow or to drink the cup of poisoned hemlock in a Grecian jail, but with an inevitable certainty after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

It was June 18, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo. The French under the command of Napoleon were fighting the Allies (British, Dutch, and Germans) under the command of Wellington. The people of England depended on a system of semaphore signals to find out how the battle was going. One of these signal stations was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral.

Late in the day it flashed the signal: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D-
-." Just at that moment one of those sudden English fog clouds made it impossible to read the message. The news of defeat quickly spread throughout the city. The whole countryside was sad and gloomy when they heard the news that their country had lost the war. Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message could be read. The message had four words, not two. The complete message was: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N- - -D-E-F-E-A- T-E-D- - -T-H-E- - -E-N- E-M-Y!" It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread. Sorrow was turned into joy, defeat was turned into victory!

So it was when Jesus was laid in the tomb on the first Good Friday afternoon. Hope had died even in the hearts of Jesus' most loyal friends. After the frightful crucifixion, the fog of disappointment and misunderstanding had crept in on the friends of Jesus. They had "read" only part of the divine message. "Christ defeated" was all that they knew. But then on the third day--Easter Sunday--the fog of disappointment and misunderstanding lifted, and the world received the complete message: "Christ defeated death!" Defeat was turned into victory; death was turned to life!

A workman of the great chemist Michael Faraday accidentally knocked a silver cup into a solution of acid. It was promptly dissolved, eaten up by the acid. The workman was terribly disturbed by the accident. The chemist came in and put a chemical into the jar, and shortly all the silver was precipitated to the bottom. The shapeless mass was lifted out and sent to the silversmith, and the cup was restored to its original shape. If a human genius can do things like this, why should we doubt that God can raise the dead?