

Refuge City Church — April 17, 2022
Easter Sunday: “He is risen indeed!” [Luke 24]

Introduction [Luke 23:46-49]

“Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!’ And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent!’ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.”

- After all the ministry, miracles, prophetic words, healings, and teaching, here Jesus hangs lifeless on a cross. All hope was lost.
- What did it all mean?
 - Two men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus [members of the Jewish council, yet secret disciples of Jesus] request permission to take the body of Jesus, and lay Him in a tomb.
- If you were with us Friday night, we discussed what the crucifixion and death of Jesus means for us.
- **TODAY**, we continue that story. Cause it’s not over!

The Resurrection: This is what He *must* do!

- **QUOTE:** “The record of the resurrection of the crucified dead body of Jesus constitutes the climax of all four Gospels...Take away this chapter and the facts it records, and you cancel all else that is of any worth in all the previous chapters.” [Richard Lenski]
- Without the resurrection, Jesus is no more than a good, moral teacher.
 - **Romans 1:4**, “and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”
 - **Romans 4:24-25**, “...It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”
- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is EVERYTHING!
- It *had* to be done. Jesus’ whole life on earth was dictated by what He *must* do!
 - Luke 2:49 — “I must be in my father’s house.”
 - Luke 4:43 — “I must preach the gospel.”
 - Luke 17:25 — “I must suffer.”
 - Luke 19:5 — “I must have a relationship with those who receive me.”
 - Luke 22:37 — “Scripture must be fulfilled.”
 - Luke 24:26 — “I must suffer and enter glory.”
- Jesus’ resurrection, His victory over death, *had* to happen in order for us to receive eternal life.

Luke 24: “He is not here” [verses 1-12]

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.”

- **Verses 8-10:** “an they remembered His **words**.”

- In all we do as members of Christ’s church is to recall to mind what He did for us, so that we can be encouraged and equipped to go and tell others! [Acts 1:8]

- **Verse 11:** “but these **words** seemed to them an idle tale...”

- After everything that Jesus had said and done, they couldn’t believe it. Maybe they didn’t want to believe it.
- **Luke 9:20-22**, “Then he said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ And Peter answered, ‘The Christ of God.’ And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’”
- **Luke 9:44**, “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”
- **Luke 18:31-33**, “And taking the twelve, he said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.’”
- On two occasions, immediately after these pronouncements, the disciples argue who would be the greatest!?

- Speaking to the church/followers of Jesus, we *must* return to reverence for the word and work of God!

- When we are in the presence of God, we *must* pay attention!
- This life in Christ is NOT routine.
 - **Luke 9:23**, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

- Without the resurrection, we do not have hope. We do not walk in “newness of life”. We remain in the death of our sin.

- **Galatians 2:20**, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- We believe by faith, that God raised Jesus from the dead.
 - If need be, check the historical record! All other major religions of the world, their leaders/founders are dead and buried.

- Jesus is not. He's not there. He is alive!

Luke 24: The story continues... [verses 13-27]

“That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

- We can “follow” Jesus. We can go to church, tithe, sing songs, and even say we believe all things that pertain to God.
 - Yet we can fall into the same sorrow as these disciples.
 - We don't trust in Jesus because of the words of others, or what we believe He will do for us based on our expectations.
- It is the very Word of God that determines the truth of Christ!
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
 - **Romans 10:17**, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”
- These men were considered ‘foolish’ to assume truth and expectations from others or events, rather than the prophetic word of God.
 - The very Word of God Jesus Himself referred to time and again.
- Jesus provided them the greatest exposition of scripture!
 - Perspective:
 - Gettysburg: Reading a textbook versus touring the actual battlefields with a guide who shook hands with a veteran of that war when he was a little boy.
 - The Holocaust: Reading a book about the Holocaust versus sitting and listening to the story from a gentlemen who lived through and survived those very atrocities.
 - Imagine Jesus explaining the scriptures that spoke to Himself!
 - Did he mention Genesis 22?... Abraham placing Isaac on the altar of sacrifice.
 - Did he mention Exodus 12?... The first Passover and the sacrificial lamb.

- Did he mention Numbers 21?... The bronze serpent lifted up on the pole.
- Did he mention Psalm 22, 69, and Isaiah 53?... prophetic passages that spoke to his crucifixion and death.
- **QUOTE:** “The Lord, in speaking about His resurrection, did not show them the prints of the nails in His hands to prove it. He referred them to the Scriptures rather than to the nail prints. He told them, ‘You should have believed what the prophets said.’ It is well to note the Lord’s attitude toward the Bible...I suppose it is the most subtle and satanic trap of our day to discount the inerrancy and integrity of the Word of God. Christ says a man is a *fool* not to believe it. He gave a unanimous and wholehearted acceptance of the Bible’s statements, with no ifs, ands, or buts.” [J. Vernon McGee]

Luke 24: Give us more! [verses 28-35]

“So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

- The hearts of these two men were strengthened and encouraged so much that they desired more.
- “When he was at the table with them...”
 - When we pursue that intimate relationship with Jesus, our eyes will be opened to His wonders.
 - Think about those moments when the wonder of Jesus was realized...
 - The wedding at Cana; His first miracle.
 - Feeding the 4,000 and the 5,000
 - Dining with Zacchaeus
 - Passover meal with His disciples
 - He Himself declared to be the bread of life, and living water
 - He had breakfast with his disciples after his resurrection
 - The revelation of who He is will cause our hearts to burn for more!
 - Even Satan tried to tempt Jesus with food during his time in the wilderness prior to His ministry.
 - Jesus Answer: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” **[Matthew 4:4]**
 - This should cause us to desire to tell others about Him.
 - His Word, by His Spirit will prove to us beyond a shadow of a doubt, “The Lord has risen indeed!”

Conclusion

- The crucifixion and death of Christ provides us forgiveness of our sins.
 - In order to receive forgiveness of sins, and have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, you simply have to believe, in faith, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.
 - Jesus declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - **Romans 10:9-10**, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."
- The resurrection also grants us the ability to live here and now with a greater sense of purpose, peace and hope in this world.
 - **Romans 6:3-11**, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."
- The resurrection of Jesus grants us eternal life.
 - It gives us hope that despite all that happens here, we have a Paradise that is waiting for us in eternity.
 - **John 14:1-3**, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost... He's here now. He's waiting to receive you into His presence.
 - **Revelation 3:20-21**, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne."