

AND ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

Luke 24:36-49

Today, amid unprecedented shutdowns and economic and future uncertainties, we get to talk about the greatest event in all of human history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ! All of our hopes for the future are tied to Jesus being alive. All of the promises of God are tied to Jesus being alive. All of our salvation in Jesus Christ is guaranteed and certain because of Jesus being alive! – Romans 4:25.

Luke 24 presents the resurrection of Jesus in three scenes: verses 1-12 with the women at the tomb; verses 13-35 with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; and finally verses 36-49 with the Eleven disciples. Our focus will be verses 36-49, but all three scenes follow the same progression: Confusion/amazement; rebuke, instruction from the Word, and then the mission or witness.

1.CONFUSION

- In the first scene women come to anoint Jesus' body with more spices/ointments because His burial had been done so hastily. They are shocked and perplexed to see the stone rolled away and not finding the body of Jesus – verses 1- 4. In the next scene the two on the road to Emmaus are perplexed that the One walking with them (Jesus) does not seem to know all that had happened in Jerusalem – verses 13-24.
- In our final scene, the Eleven are gathered in a locked room – John 20:19. They are frightened and scared, and even more so when Jesus Himself suddenly appears in the Room – verses 36-37. Jesus comes with tidings of peace, but they are scared and confused – see verse 41.
- What does all this mean for us? Many are still confused about Jesus. Many deny Jesus' full deity – that He was God the Son in human flesh There are some who think He really did not rise, or that His disciples made it all up or stole His body – Matthew 28:12-15. But the resurrection account shows the disciples did not make the resurrection up. In fact, they didn't get it yet themselves and this argues for the real historical resurrection of Jesus. Jesus really did rise bodily from the grave! The grave was empty (except for the graveclothes!). Because He lives, we will live. Our own resurrection is guaranteed by faith in Jesus – 1 Corinthians 15:17-22.

2.REBUKE

- In the first scene, the angels at the empty tomb ask “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”- verse 5. In the second scene on the road to Emmaus Jesus Himself calls the two disciples foolish ones – verses 25,26.
- In the final scene, Jesus asks (in at least gentle rebuke) – Why are you troubled and why do doubts arise in your mind? – verse 38. Then He shows them He really is alive bodily and is not just a spirit or ghost – verses 39-40. Then to seal the deal He asks for food and eats right in front of them! – verses 41-43. Peter later proclaims this as part of the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead – Acts 10:40-42.
- Would Jesus rebuke us today – even gently? For doubting Him, for living our lives in defeat and despair as if He really wasn't alive? “Let us not live another day as if He were dead.”

3. INSTRUCTION FROM THE WORD

- The angels remind the women at the tomb of the Words of Jesus – verse 6-8. Jesus Himself instructs the two on the road to Emmaus from the Old Testament Scriptures about the things concerning Himself, including His suffering and then entering into His glory – verse 27. He explains how Scripture points to Jesus and is fulfilled in Jesus. You cannot understand the Bible without Jesus. Jesus begins with Moses – The Law – Genesis through Deuteronomy and then all the Prophets. Where in the Law do we see Jesus? Genesis 3:15 – the Seed of the Woman; 12:3 – the Seed of Abraham; 22:8,14 - the Lamb who is provided by God!; 49:10 - the One from Judah who will take the Scepter. In Exodus – the Passover Lamb; in Leviticus - the One who fulfills once for all the Day of Atonement and is the ultimate High Priest! In Numbers 24 Jesus the Messiah is the star rising from Jacob; in Deuteronomy 18 Jesus is the Prophet to come – the Ultimate Prophet. In the Jewish Scripture order, Early prophets included Joshua, Samuel, Kings. He must have explained how He is the fulfillment of the promises to David as the Ultimate King. The Latter Prophets included Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel. Jesus must've shown them He is the Ultimate Servant of God as spoken of by Isaiah – 42:1- 3; 61:1-2; and also the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53:5,6. Jesus probably quoted to them Isaiah 53:10,11 about His resurrection glory.
- In the final scene with the Eleven disciples, He must have explained many of the same passages – again claiming all the Old Testament points to Him and is fulfilled by Him – verse 44. The Law points to Jesus – John 5:39, 45 -47. He includes here the Psalms, referring to all three portions of the Hebrew Bible - the Law, the Prophets. And the Writings. All of Scripture is leading to and pointing to Him. Many Psalms directly refer to Him – for ex., Psalm 2, 22, 110.
- Why didn't the disciples get it? Why don't people today understand the Bible is all centered on Jesus Christ? We still need Jesus to open our minds to see His glory on the pages of the Bible! – verse 45; 1 Corinthians 2:14. Do you love the Word of God and see it all relating to Jesus? Does your heart burn when you see His glory? – verse 32.

4. WITNESS OR MISSION

- The women immediately left the empty tomb to go tell Jesus' disciples He is Risen! – verse 9; Matthew 28:7. The two on the road to Emmaus finally realize it was Jesus the whole time and hurry back seven miles to tell everyone – verses 33-35. Now in the final scene Jesus sends out His disciples as witnesses to the message in verses 48,49. Our mission is the same today – to proclaim to the nations salvation in the risen Jesus, in dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit who descended on the church at Pentecost (50 days later).
- Our message is the good news – the gospel as written by God in His Word! – verse 46,47 – that the Christ should suffer and on the third day be raised from the dead. We are to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sin in Jesus. Repentance and forgiveness. This was the gospel of Paul – Acts 20:21; 26:20, 22,23. Let us proclaim the same gospel today. Jesus saves. Jesus lives and is the only way to God. Let us never apologize for the message of the cross and the resurrection. It is the only cure to our sin and spiritual death. It is our only hope and confidence in a world of uncertainty. Jesus' resurrection is our victory now and forever!

Concluding Applications:

- Are you trusting in the Risen One Jesus Christ our Lord?
- He is risen! What does this mean in your life now?