

Luke 24:1-53

The Resurrection

Image Church // Inverted Kingdom Vol. 2 / Road to the Cross: Wk. 13

Intro:

Happy Easter!

- *Can we put our hands together and celebrate the reality of the fact that we are here to celebrate the risen King of the Universe!!!*

Listen, I've got some good news for you, *if the tomb is empty, then anything is possible!!*

- Don't know what you walked in here with this morning, and I don't know your story, but what I do know is that God does and that you're not here by accident... I believe that God wants to do something in you today!

If you're a guest with us, we're so glad that you're here to celebrate Easter with us... We want you to feel loved this morning, and we want to serve you in any way that we can, so please do not hesitate to grab someone with a lanyard if you have any questions... Also, make sure to stop by the table and grab the gift that we have for you!

Alright, ***if you have your Bible, turn to Luke 24...***

Let me ask you this, at first thought, what are some things that changed the world? 4 come to mind for me:

- The Automobile... *changed how we get around*
- The Computer... *I was 15 when we got our first computer.*
- The internet... *AOL Instant Messenger?*
- The smartphone...

What about on a personal level...

What's something that happened to you that changed the rest of your life? More than likely it was an event in time that, when it happened, it marked a turning point in your life where things would never be the same... For me:

- Going to college: *no more meals, laundry, no more curfew...*
- When I married my wife Ashley...
- When we had kids...
- When we decided to move here to start this church...

Life is comprised of events, and occasionally some of those events that take place end up changing life as you knew it...

This morning we're going to be looking at a ***historical event that would change the world forever...***

- But it's unique in the fact that, unlike any other event in history, it has eternal implications that offers you something no other event in human history could ever offer you!

Let's jump in so we can see... Jesus has been killed and confirmed dead.

Luke 24:1-53

1 On the first day of the week [Sunday], very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. [we're going to find out in a little bit in verse 10 who the *they* is here, a group of women] **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. [That's interesting] **3** They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, [BTW: notice the confusion here, the women came expecting to find Jesus dead in the tomb, they don't see Him... They don't understand what's going on, they're at a loss for words! ... *Kinda like Alabama fans after football season this year...*]

... suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. **5** So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" asked the men.

IOW: Why do you come to the place of the dead to find the one who is living?!?

This is such a powerful statement that carries a lot of relevance for us today...

Here's the thing, so often, we find ourselves looking for *life* among things that are dead because they can't give us what we're ultimately looking for...¹

Illustration: *It's strawberry picking season... Google strawberry patches, pull up, and a sign says all the strawberry plants are dead...*

- *No one is like this is the spot, honey grab the kids!*

And yet this is exactly what we do in life...

- We look to things like our job, our income, our success, our financial status, a degree, or a certain type of home...
- Or we look to our families or the desire for a spouse or a family...
- Even religion...

And we hold up all these things up thinking they will bring us life, that it will fulfill us, that it will sustain us...

- But all they do is leave us wanting more...

A business professor at the University of Texas calls this, along with other psychologists, the *hedonic treadmill*.²

And according to *treadmill theory*, as a person accomplishes more, their expectations and desires rise with it, which results in no permanent gain when it comes to fulfillment...

It's like a person on a treadmill who keeps walking but doesn't actually go anywhere...

- **IOW:** *You keep getting what you desire, but you never progress forward in fulfillment...*

¹ Connection here from Joby Martin, *Easter 2021*. Further application is mine.

² Raj Raghunathan via Inc. article by Jessica Stillman.

There's nothing that you can find or achieve in this life that will give you what you ultimately want and need...

- Because, at some point, everything will let you down...

Some of you are there this morning, you came in here this disappointed because the thing that you thought you wanted didn't do it for you... Or you couldn't get it...

- And you're disappointed because **you weren't designed to find life and fulfillment in those things**...
 - You were created from something more, for someone more!

The only place that you can find true life is by looking to the author of life... Jesus is the only one that can ultimately give you what you want and what you need...

- What He offers is unconditional... It is consistent... And it lasts for all of eternity...
- Nothing else can promise you that!

Verse 6: *The angel says:* ⁶“He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, ⁷saying, ‘It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’”

This was all purposeful, and each part of this process had to happen...

And he's like: *don't you remember, Jesus told you this was how it was going to happen!*

Listen like them, it's so easy for us to suffer from Spiritual amnesia...

To hear the words of Jesus but to forget them almost as quickly as we heard them...

- For some of you, you know the words of Jesus, you've grown up around them, but you've missed the implications of them...

Here's the thing, what we tend to forget are beautiful truths about Jesus that bring us life, and that brings us hope...

*I know for some of you, you've had a bad experience with church, and you've seen Jesus' words as everything but beautiful...

- What I want you to hear this morning is Jesus' words from **John 10:10**, He says *I came to bring life and to have it in abundance...*

There's an incredible hope that you can hold onto in the words of Jesus!

- A hope that leads to restored marriages, freedom from addictions, a sense of belonging, freedom from the chains of your past, and the ability to endure through hurt and pain...

This entire bible is His words to you, and they are **beautiful, not burdensome**... And they meet you where you are in the midst of the brokenness reality that we live in...

*Alright, so the angel says: it was necessary for Jesus to be crucified, killed, and to be raised on the third day... We're going to see **why** it was necessary in a little bit! ... Stay tuned...*

Verse 8: ⁸ And they remembered his words. ⁹ Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. ¹¹ But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.

BTW: can I just say if you struggle with doubt and disbelief in the power of God, you would make a great follower of Jesus!

- The goal of the Christian life isn't to be free of doubts, it's to have faith that endures in through your doubts!
- They come out on the other side in faith... You say, *but they saw Jesus!* They saw him to be a witness for you!! 11 of 12 killed holding fast to this that would serve as proof for you!!

Verse 12:

¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. So he went away, amazed at what had happened.

Our boy Peter takes off running to the tomb, there is a glimmer of hope in him...

- He's got a lot to talk to Jesus about...
- Denied Jesus three times...
- You better believe he wants to get there to figure things out!

Verse 13: *we get this cool encounter as Jesus begins to reveal Himself to His followers...*

¹³ Now that same day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Together they were discussing everything that had taken place. ¹⁵ And while they were discussing and arguing, Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶ But they were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ Then he asked them, "**What is this dispute that you're having with each other as you are walking?**" And they stopped walking and looked discouraged.

They are discouraged... They think all is lost...

Let me ask you this, have you ever been discouraged by God, by what He's not doing, or even by what He's doing... And you find yourself in a place of despair?!? Ever been there? I have!

- *God, did you take some vacation time here?!?*

Here's the thing I want you to see... These guys are discouraged... They have no idea what God is doing... And yet what we see here is that God is very much at work, in fact, He's in their midst!

Oftentimes, the moments when we feel like God's the furthest away are the times when God is doing something in your midst!

- I know you want to know what it is, I know you want to know why, and I don't have the answers to those questions, but I know that God does, and one day it will all make sense!

These guys are discouraged because they think all is lost and God is doing something far greater than they could have ever imagined...

Listen, ***the same God that was working then to bring about your salvation when no one could see it, is the same God that's working today in the midst of your circumstances, even if you can't see it!***

- And like then, He's working for your good and His glory!

Verse 18:

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked them.

I love this, notice how Jesus has been setting them up... He wants to draw out what's on their minds so that He can address it...

So they said to him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel.

They had missed the true purpose of what Jesus came...

- See, they had hoped that Jesus was going to be the one that would save Israel as a nation...
- That He would free them from the oppression of Rome...

And now that Jesus was dead, all hope was lost... The ***irony*** is that His death is the beginning of hope, not the end of it!

- See, Jesus didn't come to start a political movement to free Israel from Rome... ***He came to free the world from sin!***

He didn't come to restore Jerusalem back to how it used to be, ***He came to restore a broken relationship with God!***

They continue on in ***verse 21***...

Besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women from our group astounded us.

They arrived early at the tomb, ²³ and when they didn't find his body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

There is a shocking stir around Jesus' body being gone... We saw it with the women, we saw it with Peter... But they don't understand why, they don't understand what's going on...

Well Jesus is about to fill them in, ***verse 25***: ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

Jesus says, *guys, really?!? Don't you understand that it had to be this way- that this was the plan from the beginning!*

And then He begins to show them why as He walks through the scriptures...

CREATION: Right relationship with God, no sin, no brokenness...

FALL: Sin enters the world...

- Sin pollutes perfection... Creation unravels...

A Promise given: *Gen. 3:15*

God chooses Israel: not because of anything they did... He chose them as a means by which to reveal Himself to the world...

- In the way that they were called to live...
- But ultimately through the coming of Jesus through the line of Israel!

And so God gave them laws that served **4 purposes**:

- To show the existence of sin and the separation between God and man...
- To show the need for cleansing from their sin...
- To show that there had to be payment for sin...
 - Sacrificial system...
- And it all *ultimately* pointed to the need for God's promised deliverer who would come and bring restoration to the brokenness that exists because of sin...

What we have to see is that ***there's a need for deliverance that is outside of our ability...***

- This is the biggest difference between Christianity and all other religions...
- Other religions say that it's on you to make your way to God, Christianity says that there's no way that you can do it...
- **Ex:** work your way to the top of the mountain... God comes down to do what we could never do for ourselves...

Jesus would come and be our ***perfection*** and take on our ***punishment...*** He would take out place in His life, and He would take out place in His death...

- He would take on the wrath of God in our place so that God's perfect justice could be served to allow us to be set free...

But His work wasn't finished at the cross... What we see here is that Jesus would bust out of the grave, proving that He was God and extending to us new life in Him!

- On the cross, Jesus deals with our punishment, but in His resurrection, He offers us new life in Him!
- Resurrection is what gives you a ***new identity...*** No longer sinner, but son or daughter... **2 Cor. 5:17! Hidden in Christ!**

And the resurrection is just the beginning, it's the start of what Jesus promises to finish, where He will return and make all things new...

- He started by dealing with the source of our pain and brokenness... sin

- He will finish by doing away with the implications that came from our sin...
- There is an incredible hope found in the resurrection...

Alright, so Jesus has just finished unpacking how all of Scripture points to Him, let's p[ick back up in Verse 28:

²⁸ They came near the village where they were going, and he gave the impression that he was going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him, "Stay with us, because it's almost evening, and now the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.

Let me ask you this: *have your eyes been opened to who Jesus is?*

- Do you see that everything in the bible points to Him to you see that even creation itself points to Him...
- Do you see that He came so that He could have a relationship with you!?!
- Are you in a relationship with Him, or have you just given lip service to Him?

Verse 32: ³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Their hearts were burning...

This is some of you this morning... You're hearing Jesus through His Word, and it's stirring something in your heart...

- *Don't push back lean in...*

Verse 33:

³³ That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

³⁵ Then they began to describe what had happened on the road and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶

As they were saying these things, he himself stood in their midst. He said to them, “Peace to you!”³⁷ But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ “Why are you troubled?” he asked them. “And why do doubts arise in your hearts?”³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.”⁴⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

I know for a lot of you, you’re tracking with the disciples here... You have a lot of fear and a lot of doubts when it comes to Jesus...

What I want you to see this morning is that Jesus comes to you in the midst of your doubts and fears...

- And He says through His Word this morning, here I am, **look at my hands and my feet...**

Some of you have a lot of questions... *I’m sure they did too...*

- The goal can’t be to have all your questions answered first... Look at what Jesus has done for you and watch as He begins to bring more clarity... What He does is that He answers them as they continue in faith...

Verse 41:⁴¹ But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”⁴² So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

Eating fish in heaven one day... Hoping this means a medium-rare steak to...

⁴⁴ He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

This is my prayer for you this morning...

⁴⁶ He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And

look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

What we see is that Jesus brings *clarity* about who He is... He gives them the *capacity* to understand...

And He’s going to give them the power to walk in these things through the **Holy Spirit**, which is the promise of the Father...³

What happens here isn’t a prayer that they pray, it’s not a religion that they become a part of, this is a **radical transformation** that takes place, one that Jesus does in them!

For many of you, you’ve been around the things of Jesus, you know about Him, you know about what He’s done- you might even say that you believe in it...

But you don’t have the **clarity** they have you don’t have the **power** they have that brings life transformation because you haven’t had the **capacity to understand** because you’ve been around religion but not surrendered to the person of Jesus!

Verse 50:⁵⁰ Then he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² After worshiping him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy.⁵³ And they were continually in the temple praising God.

Jesus ascends to the right hand of the Father so that He can make His appeal on your behalf...

And they’re left worshiping... They worshiped because of their hope in Jesus...

- The resurrection changes everything!

Does the resurrection lead you to worship...

- And worship is more than a song, it’s the posture of your life...

³ Brian Tabb, *Taught By Jesus*.

For some of you, you've gone through the motions... you've been around the things of Jesus but you've never surrendered to the person of Jesus...

- You don't know the joy that exists in Him...
- You don't have the hope attached to Him...
- For some of you, you're hurting, for others of you have doubts...
- Would you see the hope of the resurrection this morning!

Conclusion [VAMP]

Illustration: The Master's Tournament

- You win it, it changes everything for the rest of your life... The money, the fame, but even more...
- The Green Jacket...
- You are forever invited back until you die...
- There is an incredible dinner Tuesday night before the tournament starts...
- Menu is chosen by the defending champion of the year before...
- All the champions gather in this elite group and sit around the table together for an amazing night of fellowship and dinner as they share in what it means to win this incredible tournament...

One, there's going to be another invitation only dinner where we will happen⁴- the only difference is that your invitation isn't contingent on your performance, it's contingent on Christ performance...

- *And unlike the Masters you don't just get invited back for a lifetime, you get invited for all of eternity!*

Some of you need to receive Jesus' invitation this morning...

Call to respond:

- Admit that you are a sinner...

- Believe that Jesus has done everything necessary to save you and give you the hope of new life in Him!
- Confess Him as Lord of your life...

I want to give you the chance to do that...

You have a white note card under your seat with a pen... Go ahead and grab that...

- NAME, EMAIL, PHONE #: *write I surrender! **And just put it back under your seat...***

Prayer

⁴ Revelation 19:6-10

Reflect and Discuss:

- Where are you looking for life among dead things?
- Are Jesus' words beautiful or burdensome to you?
- Read Luke 24:46-48, discuss how we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit spoken about for you?
 - Do you feel empowered by God to bear witness for the gospel?
- Discuss what the resurrection of Jesus means for the rest of your faith?
- Discuss your response to the gospel?
 - Are you motivated to worship?