

Have You Heard the Word? Have They?

APRIL 30, 2023

MATTHEW 28:18-20

PROPS:

KIDS SERMON:

What have you heard that was super exciting? Maybe at home, or with your school or with friends?

And the person that told you, what do you think they wanted you to do when they were telling you about it?

Well I want to tell you about something super important... I went to tell you about... This... What's this? ... And since I want to tell you about it, I want you to listen... now this is Funfetti Cake. And funfetti cake isn't just any cake... it's Fun... cake... and I love funfetti. My sister, Jenn, she would make a funfetti Ninja Turtle cake every year for my birthday growing up, and she even made one for me at my wedding. Pretty cool huh... But the cake's just for me and I'm going to eat all of it all by myself and not share it with anyone.

Would that be very nice of me? No. When you get something great, when its your birthday and someone makes you a birthday cake... what should you do with it? (Share it)

That's right. And today, your parents and I are going to see God has given us something even better than a cake. He has given us His Word. And He wants us to listen to Him when He shares it with us. But He doesn't want us to keep it all to ourselves, after we hear about God's Word, He wants us to share it with others so they can enjoy it and share it as well.

Let's Pray

Introduction:

What have you been talking about lately? What occupies that space in your mind that just comes out when you talk with a buddy, or when you post on Insta? You know, I'd think it'd be a fun to combine each of your Instagram stories into an essay format, and see repeated themes you write about. What do you journal about? What do you talk about with your honey at night? When you call Mom, or talk with your friend on a drive, what is the topic of conversation?

Do you talk about your friends? Talk about people who used to be your friends? Finances maybe. Stressors at work, homework at school? Is it the wave you caught over the weekend? What are you talking about?

That's what Jesus wanted to know. "What's the topic of conversation?"

And in our passage today, we are going to discover that your words are important to Jesus. And the question our passage has for you is.... How important are His words to you?

< Your words are important to Jesus. How important are His words to you? >

Review

Today we are finishing our "Meals with Jesus" series, and through looking at the 10 meals that Jesus shares in the Gospel of Luke, we have seen the importance of a shared meal in living out the Gospel. And Jesus has used the platform of a shared meal to remove distractions that get in the way of people following Him.

And in the last two sermons and in this one as we end on His final meals with His apostles, we are seeing that Jesus not only wants to remove distractions you and I have from following Jesus, but that He has specific

instructions for you to follow, so that you can fulfill His Great Commission for you... to go and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

Two Sundays ago as we discussed the Last Supper, and Jesus offering Himself through the bread and the cup, we saw that in order to Make Disciples...

—> **You gotta receive Christ's body. All of Jesus, in All of you.**

And last week as we saw Jesus example of serving His disciples until the very end, we saw that in order to Make Disciples

—> **You gotta follow Christ's character and serve others.**

To make disciples, you gotta serve them.

And today we will discover the third and final thing Jesus has given to you, to make disciples... He's given you His Word and He's given you Your Word. To make Disciples...

—> **You gotta believe Christ's Word and share it with others.**

Today

To catch you up to speed with the context of our meal, Jesus has just risen from the dead. He has just Revealed His Resurrected Reality to Mary Magdalene... and to three other women, and to Peter. And now, Jesus is revealing Himself to two disciples on the Road to Emmaus... They weren't part of the 12, but they had been following Jesus and were amongst His followers.

—> **Luke 24:13-17a And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?..."**

Jesus wants to know what they're talking about. He cares what they're saying to each other. Because when you know what someone talks about, you know what's in their heart.

—> **Luke 6:45b "...For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Berean Standard Bible Version)**

And Jesus cares more about your heart than anything else. And so to know your heart, Jesus wants to listen to your words. What you speak, what you write, what you post... He cares about that stuff, and He listens. That's the kindness of God. He listens to you, often times even before He speaks to you, He just wants to hear your words. Which is our first truth we see in our passage today.

—> **Jesus wants to listen to your words.**

And throughout God's Word, we see God inviting you to share your words with Him. We read verses like

—> **1 Thessalonians 5:17 "pray without ceasing"**

—> **Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"**

God loves to listen to your words to your needs, to your fears. Even if they're mean nasty words or about really hard things, He just enjoys listening to you.

< **God loves to listen to you. But do you listen to Him?** >

BELIEVE HIS WORDS

Do you want to hear the words that God speaks to you? And when you hear them, what are you going to do with them? When you hear God's Word, or when you Read His Word.... Will you Receive His Words? Will you Repeat them? Or will you reject them? Receive them, repeat them, or reject them, those are your options.

Reject his words

And in our passage today, the disciples had rejected His Words.

Earlier in Luke and in Jesus' ministry, 3 times, while Jesus was with them, Jesus predicted His passion. 3 times He told His apostles that He would be killed and raised on the third day. Both, killed and raised... In one of the clearest ways Jesus could tell them...

—> **Luke 18:31-33 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again”**

You can't be more clear than that. But after Jesus went to the cross, His disciples rejected His words and didn't believe that He would raise them from the dead. As we talked about at Easter, none of the disciples were at Jesus' tomb on third day, none of them were there to see Him rise. I mean, they probably could've sold tickets for that... but no one was there. They didn't believe what Jesus said.

And then even after the women told the disciples that they heard from an angel that Jesus had risen, they didn't believe them either. And we're told that

—> **Luke 24:11 ... these words appeared to them (the disciples) as nonsense and they would not believe them”**

The Disciples rejected God's Words. What are you going to do?

These two disciples decided to walk away from the pages of history. Off to Emmaus, a no-name town. Away from Jerusalem. Away from where Jesus was. Away from the other disciples. Probably headed back home to Galilee. To their old way of life.

And rejecting Jesus' Words, has consequences. In our passage, we are told that after thinking of Jesus' words as nonsense, and rejecting the words of Christ... these men were sad.

Look at our verse right after Jesus asks them what they are talking about,

—> **Luke 24:17b-20 and they stood still, looking sad. (But why are they sad?) One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” And He said to them “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death and crucified Him” But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.”**

These disciples knew so many things about Jesus and believed so many of His words. They know He's from Nazareth, as was spoken by the prophets ([Matt. 2:23](#)). They knew He was a prophet of God. They knew He

worked miracles and spoke powerfully to everyone. They knew He was crucified. They believed all these things about Jesus! But their belief ended with His death.

And you can believe all sorts of nice things about Jesus... you can believe that He was a good teacher, that He's helped lots of people, that Jesus was a spiritual leader, you can believe Jesus makes a great character for TV shows...

but if you don't believe ALL His Words? ... if you don't believe the really hard things He says... like the fact that He would raise from the dead? Then what's the point in believing ANY of His Words? If He's dead He's dead... and none of His words have merit. Because there's no way a dead man can redeem Israel and there's no way that a dead man can redeem you. You might as well pack up your things and walk home. If Jesus is dead, then it's as Pastor Paul puts it

—> 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 if Christ has not been raised (from he dead), then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."

Everything hinges on the fact that Jesus not only died... but that He rose again on the third day. And the disciples in our story aren't getting it. They've heard Jesus say He would rise again. They heard the testimony of the women who said that Jesus was alive. But still they rejected His Word.

You know there's some hard things that Jesus says to believe. Rising from the dead is one of them. Will you believe that one? Or reject it?

Another hard saying of Jesus is

—> Luke 9:23-24 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

What will you do with that one? Reject it? Or will you take up your cross DAILY and follow Him? Another hard one is

—> Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

I don't know about you, but its hard for me to love those who don't like me. Who speak poorly of me. Yet I'm called to believe that I should love that person. Will you reject Jesus' Word? Or receive it?

You know I've had some really good mentors in my life. One of them is my Uncle Darwin and Auntie Terri. Many of you know them, they've served in AWANA here and Uncle Darwin at times reads our Scripture. And when we Liz and I moved here in 2010... just married, no kids, both working ... all sorts of disposable income and time. My Uncle and Auntie spoke some hard words to me.

They told me that we should purchase a home in Kailua as soon as possible because the market would be too hard to get into if we waited. As a 24 year old who was more interested in shaggy hair and paddle boarding everyday, their WORDS SOUNDS LIKE NONSENSE. I could get to that later. I rejected hard words from a man I trusted. And so we didn't buy home.

By the way the price of a home back then, in Kailua... about \$500,000. We could've afforded it had we worked hard. The price of a home in Kailua now? Well over a million bucks. Bummer! I should've followed His hard words.

What will you do with the hard words of Jesus?

In our passage today, Jesus wants to confirm how TRUE all of His words are to these two obscure disciples, so **Jesus takes them to the place that any of us would take someone who is struggling to believe in Jesus. He takes them to the Old Testament.** The Old Testament is the best! Go home and read it.

—> **Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses (referring to the first 5 books of the Bible that Moses wrote) and with all the prophets He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”**

We've already seen that Jesus loves to listen to your words. But He also wants you to listen to His.

—> **Jesus wants you to listen to His.**

To have Jesus explaining the Old Testament would be pretty awesome. **But today you'll have to settle for me.** I'll do my best I promise. Perhaps Jesus took them to what's called the Protoevangelium (Pro dee van jelly um) the first gospel

—> **Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel”**

And Jesus explained how moments after mankind was plunged into ruin, God already knew that the plan of salvation would be through Jesus, born of a woman... crushing the work of Satan, yet being bruised Himself in the cross.

Maybe Jesus went to a prophecy about the location of His birth... something He had no control in

—> **Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.** And we see this fulfilled in Matthew 2:1

Or perhaps He took them to [Zechariah 11:12](#) that the Messiah would be sold for 30 pieces of silver, as we see Judas betray Jesus for that exact amount in [Matthew 26:15](#)

Or perhaps Jesus took them to Isaiah 53. A chapter that by the way is no longer read in Jewish synagogues because too many Jews were believing in Jesus from it. In talking about the Messiah, Isaiah prophecies

—> **Isaiah 53:5 He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.** being pierced by nails and a spear. And we'll continue in verse 7.

—> **Isiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth”** Referring to Jesus remaining silent before His accusers as we see in the gospels ([Matt 27:12](#))

Or perhaps Jesus reminded them of His own prophetic words in

—> **Luke 9:22 “saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised upon the third day.”**

Jesus' prophesied His own death and resurrection at least three times. And then guess what... HE DID IT!

You can trust the Word of God. What He says may be hard, but its true.

We just looked at 8 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. 8 of them. How likely do you think it is that one man would fulfill that many prophecies written about Him from 2,000 years in the past? I have no idea, but scholars claim (and google confirms) that the odds of one person fulfilling just 8 prophecies, is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. ... that's the number one with 17 zeroes behind it. Big number right?

I have no concept for that number. But I know its big. And I know Texas is Big... so imagine filling the entire state of Texas with silver dollars... two feet high... and having someone draw a smily face on one of them and toss it in the pile. And then you blindfold a kid, put them in a helicopter, drop them off somewhere in that state, and tell them to reach down and pickup one of the silver dollars. The likelihood of that silver dollar having a smily face on it is 10 to the 17th power. And that's the likelihood of one person fulfilling just 8 Old Testament prophecies.

But how many prophecies did Jesus fulfill? The numbers vary because it depends how you count a prophecy, but most scholars would say that Jesus fulfilled ... over 300 Messianic prophecies in His lifetime. So if fulfilling 8 prophecies puts a blindfolded kid on a helicopter bound for Texas... where are we sending that kid for the chances of fulfilling 300 prophecies!? C'mon that's a big number! Apart from the workings of God, that's impossible!

Jesus' Word is true. And the entire Book is about Him! And you can believe it in every way.

Application

Do you believe God's Word!? Are you putting your money where your mouth is. It's not just being a Sunday Christian. It's all of Jesus in All of you.

If you believe His Word, then what do you do with it? What do you do with the 783,137 words of God that He has written for you? Have you read them? Not just once when you were younger, not just listening to the preacher, but do you come to His Word, consistently, and let His Word change you. Remember, this isn't a dead book... the word of God is living and active we're told in ([Heb. 4:12](#)). It's meant to become a part of who you are and change you into His image.

When Liz and I were trying to figure out really cool names to name our kids, we thought of John 17:17, and we pulled the name "Truitt" from this verse. It's True! Truitt!

—> **John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**

Every time you receive Jesus' Word, you are being sanctified and made into the image of Christ.

And here's the secret sauce, when you read the Written Word of God, you see that the whole thing is about Jesus. Jesus is the hermeneutic to understand Scripture. Seeing Jesus on the pages is the key to unlocking what it's about. Remember what Jesus told the two disciples on the road to Emmaus

—> **Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**

I don't know how to say this nicely... once I get to be a better preacher I'll figure it out, but now I'm just bumbling along and saying what comes to mind... but how tragic it is that some of you don't engage in God's Word on a consistent basis. I know life gets busy, and we can't be pharisees about it. And its not about reading your Bible every day.

Jesus wants to listen to y our words and He wants you to listen to His. Are you listening to His Consistently? ...

And consistency is different for different seasons of life. If you're in that busy season of life... a big job, kids in the home, deep in school, you're in the field, if life is full then consistent time in God's Word for you might mean a post it note, or the verse of the week, you read on your bathroom mirror as you're brushing your teeth. Or you have a 10 minute commute to work, instead of listening to the news, you put on the audio Bible, or a Christian podcast a couple times a week. Or at the dinner table, you read a paragraph from the Gospels.

And if you're in a season where you have more time, then perhaps consistent time in God's Word means you join a small group that engages with God's Word. Maybe its AWANA for your kids, or Youth Group, or an Ohana Group, or men's or women's study groups. But whatever "consistency" looks like for you, Jesus wants you to listen to His Words, so listen to them when you can.

< Having seen that Jesus wants you to listen to His words, what happens when you do? >

Share His Word

And something wonderful happens when you receive God's Words consistently... back to our passage in Luke 24, after Jesus explains the Old Testament to these two disciples, he shares a meal with them. It's a common meal. Just like a meal you would have on a Tuesday night at home. And something clicked for these disciples.

—> Luke 24:30-31 When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He vanished from their sight”

Remember this isn't a communion meal. These two disciples weren't a part of the Last Supper, so they're not having throwbacks to that... but something about the combination of a meal together and God's Word causes these two disciples to have their hearts burning for Jesus.

They've received God's Word, and what happens? ... They immediately go share God's Word with others...

—> Luke 24:33-35 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, (remember, it was already night time, and it's a 7 mile trip to Jerusalem) and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.”

When you truly believe God's Word, it starts overflowing out of you and you'll find yourself just talking about Jesus.

—> Jesus wants you to share His Word with others.

When you believe His Word, you'll just naturally share. And we see that over and over again in our passage.

The women who believed the words of the angel that Jesus was alive, ran back to tell the apostles.

And the two disciples after they believed God's Words, ran and told the apostles.

And then Jesus appears to the apostles, and after Jesus explains the Gospel through the Old Testament to them, and they believe, Jesus says it's now their turn to share God's Word with others. Jesus tells the apostles

—> Luke 24:48 You are witnesses of these things...

And a witness is someone who shares about what they've seen and heard.

A couple years ago I was summoned for Jury Duty... Bummer... and I lost two days of work. And I got to listen to a bunch of witnesses share about seeing saw some dude steal a bottle of liquor and run out of Aikahi Safeway, and these witnessed shared that he ran into a guy on the way out and knocked him over.

And these witnesses they didn't argue their case. The lawyers did that.

The witness didn't defend if what they saw was true or not, they were just honest and shared what they witnessed.

And when you have witnessed the Word of God in your life, you too will be His witnesses and you'll share what God's has done in your life. You don't have to argue the case or defend if it's true. You just have to be a witness.

And when you share God's Word or your testimony with someone else, remember to be like Jesus. Start by listening.

—> **But first, listen to them and ask questions.**

Listen to where someone is at. Ask them "What do you think about Jesus? Did you grow up in church? Did Jesus meet all your expectations?"

And then share a meal with them. Pray over the meal. No one has ever rejected me saying a prayer

You and I have a calling. We are to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

To do so, Jesus has prepared everything you need.

He has given you His body. All of Jesus in All of you.

He has given you His character so that you too can serve others.

And He has given you His Word, that you might share it with others.

Are you ready to make disciples?

Let's Pray.