



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Risen Savior's Final Sermon

Passage: Luke 24:44-48

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Resurrection Sunday was over. The stone had been rolled away, the tomb stood empty, and the risen Lord had already begun appearing to His followers. Hearts burned on the road to Emmaus, and joy flooded the upper room as Jesus showed His wounds and spoke peace to His startled disciples. The world had forever changed, but Jesus' mission was not yet finished. Before ascending to His Father, He took time to do what had always been at the center of His earthly ministry—declare the Good News of salvation. Luke 24 gives us a glimpse of that final, powerful message. It was a sermon only Luke records—biblical, Christ-exalting, and world-reaching. With eternity in view, Jesus prepared His disciples to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

I. A Biblical Sermon

What Jesus taught came right out of the Bible, which is where His sermon begins: with the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ is the key to understanding the Old Testament. To know the Old Testament truly is to know Jesus, and to know Jesus, one must know the Old Testament.

In order for God to fulfill His plan, Jesus had to come into the world the way He came, live the way He lived, die the way He died, and rise again the way He rose again. It all had to happen the way the



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Bible said it would happen—the way it was promised in the Scriptures.

II. A Christ-Centered Sermon

Jesus preached the Gospel by proclaiming its two foundational truths: the death and resurrection of the Savior whom God had promised.

"The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day." (Luke 9:22)

"Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again." (Luke 18:31-33)

Then Jesus actually did what He always said that He would do: He offered His body for suffering unto death, and then on the third day He rose again.

"After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight." (Hosea 6:2)

Jesus preached Christ from all the Scriptures, opening minds to understand the basic facts of His saving Gospel. Jesus did what was prophesied, and then He preached what He had done—His saving work in human history.

III. An Evangelistic Sermon

Ever since Adam and Eve committed the first sin, God has been calling His people to repentance.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts..." (Isaiah 55:7a)



SUNDAY MORNING AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

God freely offers forgiveness to anyone who is truly sorry for their sin.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12).

"...let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7b)

IV. A Missionary Sermon

This message of repentance and forgiveness is for everyone in the whole world, which is why Jesus ended His biblical, Christ-centered, evangelistic sermon by turning it into a missionary sermon.

"...I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6b)

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee." (Psalm 22:27)

As far as the plan of God and the fulfillment of Scripture are concerned, the missionary work of the church is as necessary and as important as the cross itself and the empty tomb.

"There was a divine necessity that Christ should die, and an equally imperative must that he should arise again from the dead; but there is an equally absolute necessity that Jesus should be preached to every creature under heaven." - Charles Spurgeon

Conclusion: We too are called to be witnesses. We have heard the sermon of Jesus Christ. We know the Gospel message of the cross and the empty tomb. We believe God's promise of the forgiveness of sins. Now, we are the ones who carry the message of the apostles wherever we go in the world.

"The task of every disciple—and not just of every preacher—is to interpret the significance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for others, and in doing



SUNDAY MORNING

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so to spell out the Gospel offer of forgiveness and the Gospel demand for repentance.” - Paul Beasley-Murray

The "nations" include all the people who are outside the family of God—those who do not yet believe that Jesus died for them on the cross or that their sins can be forgiven. In fact, some of the people who are farthest away from God are the people who are closest to us. Who will be their witness? So where will you go this week with the Good News of Jesus Christ? Who will hear the Resurrection sermon of Jesus through your voice? “The tomb is still empty. The Word is still true. The mission is still ours.”



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