

What The Resurrection Unveils

Resurrection Sunday / Luke 24:13-35

Introduction:

As the kids are making their way back to their seats, let's move into our passage to see how the resurrection of Christ completes the picture for us. Our story in Luke 24:13-35 reveals what helped fill these disciples' unbelieving hearts with faith in the risen Christ. We will look at this story in two parts. Consider the first part with me, in verses 13-26, showing how

THE DISCIPLES HEARTS WERE SADDENED BY THEIR UNBELIEF

Notice how it opens in verses 13-17, "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." Luke says this took place "that very day." If we were moving through this gospel, we would see that day is the day some women had gone to the tomb of Jesus, only to find the stone rolled away and tomb empty. It is also the same day they heard angels declaring Jesus had risen, told the disciples what happened, and Peter ran to the tomb to find it empty as they shared. Luke draws our attention to this conversation, between two disciples, on that same day while leaving they were walking about 7 miles from Jerusalem to a village named Emmaus and discussing everything that happened. This would have been a long discussion about the trial, death, and burial of Jesus, along with the reported empty tomb, and perhaps even the claims of resurrection. We are also told the risen Jesus drew near to them but they were kept from recognizing Him. And note their response to Jesus' question about their conversation, at the end of verse 17 again, "And they stood still, looking sad." The term for sad can be translated discouraged or downcast. Have you ever talked with someone who just received sad news and devastation is written all over their faces? That is the idea here, and Luke records this to focus our attention on how everything has affected their hearts. Then, one of them shares why they are looking sad, in verses 18-24. Look there with me, "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.'" They are shocked this man doesn't know what's happened, and as Jesus draws out their version of the story, it reveals their unbelief. Note how they speak of Jesus. He is "Jesus of Nazareth," and "a mighty prophet." Jesus is mentioned like other important figures in Israel's history, but as one commentator rightly comments, "absence of words like "Lord," "Messiah," or "Son of God" also indicates that Jesus was considered no greater than these same figures." (James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Luke*, ed. D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos, 2015), 719.) We see that clearly because they "had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." And while they acknowledge the reported resurrection happened on the third day, angels declaring He was alive, and others finding the tomb empty, they dwell on the fact that Jesus was not seen. Their hopes and dreams were shattered because they were still dwelling on what they thought the messiah would be. Thankfully, Jesus doesn't leave them there.

Notice His first response to them in verses 25-26, “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?’” Oh, how we need the our Lord to rebuke our unbelieving hearts at times. Don’t be mistaken, this is a kindness here. Jesus doesn’t leave them to live in their foolish unbelief but calls them to see what they aren’t believing. Pay attention to His rebuke. It is not for disbelieving the women, but for not believing the testimonies of God’s Word. Testimonies that declared the Christ should suffer before entering His glory. They only believed some of what the prophets spoke of, what was said about the Messiah’s glory and power. But they didn’t believe what was said about His suffering. If they had believed, they would have known the story wasn’t over and would not be in despair. Their sadness came from their unbelief. Which is true of us far too often today, isn’t it? How many times do we still fail to understand and believe all that God promises to be for us in Jesus Christ? Praise God that Jesus never stops working to strengthen our faith. Just as we see Him do in the next part of this story, found in verses 27-35, showing how

JESUS SETS THEIR HEARTS ON FIRE WITH FAITH

Jesus does something that causes their hearts to become excited and full of faith. Notice what that is in verse 27, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Verses 25-27 are vital to this story. Christ reminds them of all the prophets spoke of in verses 25-26, then our Lord graciously guides them from the beginning, with the writings of Moses (the first five books of the bible), through all the prophets, to help them see how it all points to Himself, including His suffering and glory. Jesus himself provides truth for their unbelieving hearts. Hold onto this while we continue in the story. Look at verses 28-29, “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.” The disciples still haven’t seen who Jesus truly is, but the flame in their hearts has been lit. They sense a need to continue to be with Him, so they strongly press Jesus to stay with them because it's getting late. Note what happens next in verses 30-31, “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.” Can you imagine this moment? You and a friend are discouraged as you speak of what just happened to Jesus. A stranger appears and engages in your conversation, then rebukes your unbelief and opens the scriptures to you in a way no one has before. You sense there is something special about him, so you ask him to stay with you because it's getting too late to walk further. Then, as you sit down to eat, and He blesses the meal, your eyes are opened to see it is Jesus Christ, only to have Him completely vanish. How would you respond? Rub your eyes. Pinch yourself. Splash some water on your face. Try to analyze how He pulled off that magic trick. I can think of a hundred different ways I would respond. But look at what they say in verse 32, “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?’” They focus on the effect he had on their hearts while opening the scriptures to them. The excitement they felt. The hope they had while he was talking. It has all become real, and they are full of joy because Jesus set their hearts on fire with faith. So, they respond in verses 33-35, “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.” It’s not too late to walk anymore. They immediately leave for Jerusalem because they must tell everyone. When they arrive, they discover Jesus already appeared to Simon, or Peter, as well, and all of them saying “The Lord has risen indeed!” Yet, they have to share how Jesus open the scripture for them on the road and was known when He broke the bread. Do you see the change for them in this story? Their hearts aren’t saddened by their unbelief anymore but excited because they are burning with faith. This story helps us to see the importance of the resurrection, and what it unveils for us, what we couldn’t see without it. So, consider that with me.

WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION UNVEIL?

I see at least 3 things this story shows the resurrection of Jesus Christ unveiling or uncovering for us. First, that

1) DEATH NO LONGER HAS THE VICTORY

Look at verse 20 again, they shared how Jesus was delivered up “to be condemned to death.” These disciples assumed death was the end for Jesus. Death was the payment for sin. Death came to all mankind. He must not have been who He said He was since He too died. But see again Jesus’ response in verse 26, “Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” The suffering and death of Jesus Christ was just a doorway into His glory. It was necessary because He had to die the death we deserved for our sin. Yet, death could not hold him because His death was victory over Satan, sin, and death. And church, we studied 1 Corinthians 15 together in our staff meeting last Tuesday and saw the lengthy argument Paul makes to show how Christ’s resurrection shows that our resurrection is secure. How one day, our perishable bodies will put on their imperishable resurrected bodies, and, in that moment, we will know and understand that death no longer has victory over us because of Christ’s victory on the cross, and His resurrection. The second thing the resurrection unveils is how

2) ALL SCRIPTURE POINTS OUR HEARTS TO FAITH IN CHRIST

Notice what Jesus did again in verse 27, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” The written word of God, the scriptures, has been given for your faith. Search them and see them point your heart to Christ. Think with me again about what happened between Jesus and these disciples. Imagine what it would be like if Jesus opened the scripture to you right now. Perhaps He starts with God’s curse of Satan, following the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, in Genesis 3:15, where God says, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” Does that stir your heart to know it is speaking of Jesus? Christ gave the crushing blow to Satan’s head. What if Jesus then shares this promise of the messianic king’s birth in Isaiah 9:6-7, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” Is your heart burning with faith yet knowing that is Jesus? Maybe He follows this by showing how Isaiah 52:13 tells us the servant of the Lord will be “high and lifted up, and... exalted,” but verse 14 says “his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,” helping you to see both the suffering and glory of the Christ. Then, He shares Isaiah 53:5, revealing the messiah would be “pierced for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities,” because “upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” And Isaiah 53:10 showing “it was the will of the Lord to crush him,” but how after He made that “offering for guilt,” his days will be prolonged and the “will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.” Oh church, do these things set your heart on fire with faith when you know they are about Jesus Christ? That is what the scriptures are designed to do as we look in them for the glory of Christ, because all scripture points our hearts to faith in Christ. The final thing the resurrection unveils is how

3) OUR ETERNAL HOPE IS GROUNDED IN FAITH

These disciples needed faith and that faith led to hope. Church, true faith leads to an assured confidence in what God has promised to be for us. Our hope is eternal and secure, because it is grounded in faith in all that God promises to be for us in Christ. And, in 2 Corinthians 1:20, the apostle Paul tells us that all the promises of God find their yes in Jesus. If we are trusting in Christ’s death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin and his resurrection as the hope of our resurrection, we can look at the promises of our God throughout the scriptures and say they are ours in Christ. Promises like Psalm 32:8, where God says, “I will

instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” Or Psalm 46:1, that says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 55:22, saying “Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” And Psalm 147:3, saying, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” We can keep going. How about the promise of Isaiah 41:10, saying, “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” And one more to really drive this home. Isaiah 58:11 “And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.” Cling to these promises.

Conclusion:

The resurrection proves that these promises and more are ours to cling to in faith, providing a hope that extends beyond the grave. This is why the church celebrates the meaning of this day and has done so throughout history. Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. He is “hope for the hopeless, rest for the weary, and help for the hurting. He is mending the broken, bearing our burdens, and there to supply all that you need.” He is “Comforter, Counselor, Prince of Peace - Author and Maker of everything. Defender, Deliverer, and King of Kings.” He is “Helper and Healer forevermore - Savior and Shelter through every storm. Refuge, Redeemer and Lord of Lords.” He is “Child of Heaven and Son of Man - Provider, Protector, the great I Am. Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End” “All that we need He is.” (© 2021 Capitol CMG Amplifier (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Every Square Inch (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Inot Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Jeff Pardo Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), and sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)). As the worship team comes to lead us in a time of response, we want to respond in a specific way today. Because of the hope and joy we have, we want to stand and rejoice together in our living hope. We also want to take communion as an act of that rejoicing. As you see, there are tables set up at the front and at the bottom of the stairs in the back with the communion elements. If you are here and trusting in Christ as your savior, Lord, and treasure, we invite you to go to one of those tables and take of communion whenever it feels right for you to do so during these final 3 songs as an act of rejoicing in all that Christ is for us. If you are not trusting in Christ, we ask you to refrain from partaking but encourage you to think on everything you have heard and know that you can turn to trust in Christ’s death and resurrection for your salvation today.

Would you stand as I pray this over us?