

The Great Exchange: Week 2



April 9th, 2023

“A God Who Surprises!”

We have been looking at the scene from the Upper Room.

- Context: the Jews were expecting the Messiah.
- Jesus comes into town on a donkey (see [Zechariah 9:9](#))—so far, so good.

Message 1: *A God Who Serves*. He’s unexpected, and very surprising.

- Look at what they expected (*the Jewish Messiah*) versus what they got (*God’s Messiah*).
- Jesus **surprised** the disciples by washing their feet. Jesus **exchanged** the way others live and led with a new way full of humility.

This Week’s Message 2: *A God Who Surprises*. The empty tomb changed everything!

- God **exchanges** death for life.
- God authenticates Jesus; He declares who Jesus is by raising Him from the dead.
- God declares that the price is paid and accepted for those who believe.

Luke 24:1–8 ¹On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” ⁶He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: ⁷“The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” ⁸Then they remembered His words.

GOD SURPRISES AT THE UPPER ROOM AND BY THE SEA OF GALILEE.

- Jesus affirms those who had denied Him.
- God’s grace is surprising.
- See [John 21:15-19](#) where Jesus is re-affirming Peter.

Luke 24:36–49 ³⁶While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” ⁴⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and He took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

THE RESULT: THE DISCIPLES LIVED SURPRISING LIVES.

- The disciples became servants of others. They were known for their love.
- The disciples (*early Christians*) lived for different goals—they lived for Jesus.
- The disciples were committed to the new Kingdom. Whatever nationality, or race, or kingdom (*nation*) someone was from was secondary. God’s Kingdom is a Holy (*set apart*) nation.
- The world can seem like it is out of control, and that God is at the mercy of evil people. This is simply not true.
- Death isn’t what we thought it was. It’s a doorway.
- They had courage and purpose in the face of trial, even unto death.
- Knowing God serves, saves, and surprises leads us to a surprising lifestyle.
- [Colossians 2:13-15](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 14-21](#).

DO YOU LIVE A SURPRISING LIFE?

- Look at the way you live.
- What do you live for?
- Are you surprising?

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: **John 20.**

1. What impacted you or surprised you about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as you heard it this year?
2. Read **John 20:10-18**, or **John 20:19-22**, or **John 20:24-30**. What is surprising in this passage? How do you see the people respond to Jesus?
3. What surprises you about God these days? Where is there awe? Where might there be doubt?
4. So far, *The Great Exchange* has looked at the God who *serves* and who *surprises*. What has God shown you about Himself in this season? How is that impacting how you respond to life?
5. Who, in your world, needs to know this amazing God and His good news? What is your part in sharing Him with them?