

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

Luke 24:13-48 | Slow in Believing

April 9, 2023

WELCOME:

INTRODUCTION:

Today is Resurrection Sunday/Easter.

We are here today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Today, we will study the death, burial, and resurrection from the Gospel of Luke.

And we will focus on an interesting conversation that Jesus has with two disciples as they are walking to a town called Emmaus on Sunday morning.

So let me spend a few minutes setting the scene before we get to our text.

These two disciples of Jesus are frustrated, mad, angry, and sad all at the same time.

Why? Because a man named Jesus was murdered two days prior.

Two days ago, Jesus had been arrested by His own people—the Jewish chief priests.

The chief priests bring Jesus before Pontius Pilate—the Roman Governor overseeing Jerusalem.

And these religious leaders want Jesus dead.

His crime? He claims to be God.

As with most politicians today, Pilate is trying to keep the peace.

Pilate is not interested in the Jewish religion—Pilate is a Roman, and His god is Caesar—his boss.

So Pilate passes Jesus off to another politician —King Herod.

Jesus is tied up as a criminal and escorted with all the political pomp and circumstance before Herod.

Herod was delighted to finally meet Jesus.

Herod wanted to see a miracle—as if Jesus were a magician.

But Jesus refuses to speak with Herod.

Herod sends Jesus back to Pontius Pilate to deal with this religious issue.

Meanwhile, the religious leaders created a mob outside Pilate's office—convincing Pilate to crucify Jesus.

While the political drama unfolds, the Roman soldiers learn that Jesus is called the King of the Jews—

So they decide to place thorns on his head— these thorns resemble a demented version of a king's crown.

They then beat those thorns into his skull.

The Soldiers then took Jesus and beat him with a leather whip with nails, glass, and other sharp instruments embedded into it.

Most people die from this type of beating called a Roman flogging.

Pilate eventually gives in to the pressure of the Jewish leaders and condemns Jesus to die for being the King of the Jews.

Roman soldiers crucify Jesus between two thieves.

Crucifixion is one of the worst ways anyone could ever die.

It was a slow and excruciatingly— painful death.

The soldiers would drive a nail in the wrist of each hand and one nail through his feet.

In the first century, the wrist was also part of the hand.

These nails had to be driven into the wrist because the palm of the hand could not hold the weight of the human body to the cross.

Jesus would have to push up off the cross to breathe, sending excruciating pain throughout his entire body.

The Romans purposely had this form of capital punishment to deter anyone from breaking their laws.

Jesus suffered on that Roman cross for six hours.

After three hours of the worst human suffering you can imagine,

The next three hours were even worse.

God the Father sent His righteous and perfect judgment for human sin on Jesus.

The entire land goes dark so no one can see what this judgment looked like.

Jesus dies and is buried.

He's in a tomb for three days.

On the third day, Jesus' female disciples go to the tomb early in the morning—sunrise.

They probably didn't get a wink of sleep.

They wanted to finish the Jewish burial preparations.

And guess what? Jesus is not there.

They freak out, and as they're freaking out, Luke's gospel states that two angels show up and terrify them further.

The angels ask a great question,

Luke 24:5—“*Why are you looking for the living among the dead?*” asked the men.

The women don't have an answer.

They run back to the apostles and tell the men what happened.

But guess what? The men aren't listening.

The men don't believe the women, except for Peter and John.

Pete, in typical fashion, bursts out the door and runs to the tomb to only find Jesus' burial clothes.

And here is where we pick up our narrative for today.

*****Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.*****

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-48 NLT

Luke 24:13— *That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.*

Luke 24:14— *As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.*

Luke 24:15— *As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them.*

Luke 24:16— *But God kept them from recognizing him.*

Luke 24:17— *He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"*

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.

Luke 24:18— *Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."*

Luke 24:19— *"What things?" Jesus asked.*

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said.

"He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.

Luke 24:20— *But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.*

Luke 24:21— *We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.*

Luke 24:22— *"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report.*

Luke 24:23— They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!

Luke 24:24— Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Luke 24:25— Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.

Luke 24:26— Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?"

Luke 24:27— Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:28— By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on,

Luke 24:29— but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them.

Luke 24:30— As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.

Luke 24:31— Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

Luke 24:32— They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:33— And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them,

Luke 24:34— who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

Luke 24:35— Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

Luke 24:36— And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.

Luke 24:37— But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

Luke 24:38— “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt?”

Luke 24:39— Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do.”

Luke 24:40— As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Luke 24:41— Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

Luke 24:42— They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

Luke 24:43— and he ate it as they watched.

Luke 24:44— Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Luke 24:45— Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Luke 24:46— And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.

Luke 24:47— It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’

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

And dear friends, these are the very words from the authoritative, inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of Almighty God.

PRAY:

*“But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and he will stand upon the earth at last.*

*And after my body has decayed,
yet in my body I will see God!*

I will see him for myself.

Yes, I will see him with my own eyes.

I am overwhelmed at the thought! (Job 19:25-27)

EXEGESIS

Luke 24:13— That same day two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.

This day is Sunday—the same day Jesus walked out of His grave—but nobody knows where He is.

These two disciples were probably walking home to Emmaus after celebrating Passover in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:14— *As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.*

What exactly is *the everything* that had happened?

Most likely, these disciples are talking about everything Jesus had done in the past week.

On Monday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, where massive crowds worshipped Him as the Messiah.

On Tuesday, Jesus threw out all the people buying and selling goods in the Temple because it was turned into a shopping mall.

Wednesday and Thursday, Jesus taught the people in the Temple and humiliated the Jewish Leaders when they tried to trick him.

Friday morning, those same Jewish leaders arrested Jesus, put him through a kangaroo court, and crucified him. Jesus died and was buried.

Luke 24:15— *As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them.*

Jesus joining the conversation may sound a bit odd to us today, but it was not uncommon back then.

Because people had to walk everywhere and the roads were crowded.

Jewish culture in the first century was very different than ours—where today everybody wants to be left alone.

Luke 24:16— *But God (the Father) kept them (Disciples) from recognizing Jesus.*

Luke 24:17a— *He (Jesus) asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”*

Good teachers always ask good questions.

Jesus does just that.

Luke 24:17b—*They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.*

Luke 24:18— *Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”*

Luke 24:19— *“What things?” Jesus asked.*

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said.

“He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.

Well, Jesus is indeed a prophet, but Cleo’s title is insufficient.

Scripture states that Jesus is the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Jesus is the Messiah—the God-Man.

Jesus is the King of kings.

Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Luke 24:20— *But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.*

Luke 24:21— *We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue/redeem Israel. This all happened three days ago.*

The Jews could not understand the value of a dead Messiah/King.

Because the Jews expected/assumed a *warrior* king.

The Jews wanted someone who would free them from Roman oppression and establish the Kingdom of God on earth that is promised in the Old Testament.

Think Mel Gibson as Sir William Wallace in Braveheart.

Luke 24:22— *“Then some women from our group, were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report.*

Luke 24:23— *They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!*

Luke 24:24— *Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”*

Jesus interrupts...

Luke 24:25— *Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.*

Pause...make a note. It's never good to be called a fool by Jesus.

Isn't that kind of harsh?

Why would Jesus scold them at this moment?

It wasn't that they didn't believe the Scriptures—because they did.

It was because their understanding of Scripture was deficient.

KEYPOINT 1:

An insufficient knowledge of Scripture is dangerous.

Just as a pilot learns how to fly the airplane—He also needs to learn how to land it.

Jesus scolded them because there was no excuse for their lack of understanding.

Not only is The Old Testament clear about a suffering Messiah, but Jesus repeatedly told his disciples about His death, burial, and resurrection.

He scolded them because they needed to know that it was God the Father's predetermined plan for Jesus as God's Son to be crucified, die and rise again on the third day.

This was a part of the plan since the very beginning of Adam and Eve.

These disciples were Jews!

They were supposed to fully understand and comprehend the reality of their sin within the sacrificial system.

Scripture is crystal clear...

KEYPOINT 2:

There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.

They knew that their personal sin must be paid for by someone else.

But they didn't put it together that Jesus' death was the once and for all final substitute and sacrifice for those who believe.

Luke 24:26— *Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?"*

Luke 24:27— *Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Now I don't know about you, but that's a DVD I want to watch when I get to Heaven.

Jesus probably started at the beginning and explained how after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, that He killed an animal to provide coverings for Adam and Eve.

Therefore, blood was shed in the Garden of Eden because of their sin. (Gen. 3:21).

Jesus probably explained how He accepted Abel's sacrifice because it was a blood sacrifice and rejected Cain's because it was not (Gen. 4:3–5).

Jesus could have explained the flood and how, after the flood, Noah built an altar and offered blood sacrifices for their sin. (Gen. 8:20).

Jesus most likely explained the Exodus and how the manna (Ex. 16) pictured Him as the true bread from heaven.

Jesus probably explained how and why the sacrificial system involved the deaths of countless innocent animals.

And how those sacrifices were only a temporary band-aid to the sin problem.

Those animal sacrifices did not ultimately satisfy God's justice for sin—why?

Because they are animals. It wasn't an animal who sinned against God, it was man.

That's why they had to keep on doing the same thing year after year.

Ultimately those Passover lambs point to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

From Jesus' perspective, there is no excuse for not realizing what the empty grave means.

The ultimate sacrifice for sin had to come from a man because it was a man who sinned.

But it couldn't be any man—it had to be a perfect man, which then points to Jesus Christ.

As the Son of Man, Jesus was born of a virgin—

AND as the Son of God, impregnated by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ —God in flesh and bones—the perfect sacrifice for human sin.

Theologically—The Hypostatic Union.

Jesus means “God Saves.”

Christ means “By The Anointed One.”

That's why when people swear—they only use the Lord's name and title.

When people cuss, they don't cry out Muhammad or Buddha.

They don't realize that the name they take in vain is the only name that can save.

Luke 24:28— *By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on,*

Luke 24:29— *but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them.*

Luke 24:30— *As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.*

Verse thirty is a bit odd because the host is responsible for breaking the bread and initiating the meal.

Why did Jesus do this instead?

Evidently, the disciples were so wrapped up in Jesus’ teaching they forgot all about eating.

Luke 24:31— *Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!*

Luke doesn’t record their emotions, but if I were a bettin’ man, I’m thinking that freaked them out a bit.

Luke 24:32— *They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”*

As disciples, the same thing happens to us today, doesn’t it?

Understanding the meaning of the Bible fulfills our deepest longing in life.

KEYPOINT 3:

To know and understand the Bible correctly is the same as correctly knowing and understanding God Himself.

Why? Because the Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to mankind.

Luke 24:33a— *And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem.*

These two disciples didn't even eat!

They just walked seven miles from Jerusalem, and now they're so excited they want to walk another seven miles back!

Fourteen miles, That's like walking from the church to Jerome and back.

That's a three-hour walk back to Jerusalem.

And they're going to start at 9 pm or 10 pm.

Regardless.

Luke 24:33b—*There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them,*

And as soon as these two disciples from Emmaus walk through the door, they say...

Luke 24:34— *who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."*

Luke 24:35— *Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.*

Luke 24:36— *And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said.*

Just as Jesus left the Disciples in Emmaus, Jesus appeared in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:37— *But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!*

Notice here that there is no hint of Jesus' physical body appearing supernatural in any way.

Jesus' physical body is not doing anything other than being human.

Jesus was not dazzling like the Transfiguration.

So what freighted the disciples?

What scared the disciples was how Jesus entered the room!

He didn't use the door!

Luke 24:38— *"Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt?"*

Jesus asks two rhetorical questions.

There was no legitimate reason for them to fear anything.

Luke 24:39— *Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."*

Luke 24:40— *As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.*

Luke 24:41a— *Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder.*

The Disciples reacted and responded just like you and I would—dumfounded!

Even though Jesus was physically present, after they all knew He died three days ago—they still could not believe it.

It seemed too good to be real.

They were torn between hope and doubt,

Imagine this emotional roller coaster they must be on—fear combined with joy.

So, Jesus sees that nobody's convinced of anything...

Luke 24:41b—*Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"*

Luke 24:42—*They gave him a piece of broiled fish,*

Luke 24:43—*and he ate it as they watched.*

I wonder how uncomfortable Jesus was as everybody watched him eat!

Luke 24:44—*Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

Luke 24:45—*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*

Luke 24:46—*And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.*

Luke 24:47—*It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'*

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

PREACH:

Dear friends, you have just heard a small section of the greatest true story ever told.

Today is a great day to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But it's also a great day to think about—your death.

Because your afterlife is much more important than the one your living right now.

Scripture only offers three choices for the afterlife:

1. You must be perfect.

If you are perfect person, then you have no problem—you are good to go.

You don't need this Jesus.

But if you're not perfect....then...

2. You must accept a perfect sacrifice on your behalf for your sin debt.

A decent human judge will not wink at your offense you walk into his courtroom—why?

Because you broke the law.

The law demands that we pay our debt to society.

There is a price that must be paid—how much more so when we break God's moral law.

Our sin is a moral crime against a holy God.

God is a God of love AND a God of justice.

And, as we've read this morning God is also a God of forgiveness—
and this forgiveness comes through the shed blood of Jesus and the empty tomb.

It's your choice on whether you believe it or not.

However, please know there are consequences in not believing.

If you don't accept the sacrifice of Jesus for your sin...then there is a third option.

3. You will pay for your sin— yourself— in a very real place called hell—for eternity.

Dear friends, I know that's hard to hear—

To hear that makes us angry—we get offended.

Some people call it hate speech.

But it doesn't matter what other people think—it only matters what God says.

Death is the price for sin.

Sin is the reason we all die.

So where are you today as we celebrate Resurrection Sunday?

Are you also *slow in believing* the Gospel?

Why is that? What are the specific reasons?

Do you know what you believe and why you believe it?

If you don't believe the Gospel message this morning—I pray that you would give it some thought.

Secondly, for those of you who do believe this Gospel message, let me ask this:

In what other areas of your faith— are you *slow in believing*?

For example, are you slow to believe that, we as Disciples of Jesus, are to suffer?

Scripture tells us that we are to pick up our own cross, and follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Are you *slow in believing* that?

How do you know if your *slow in believing*?

Questions:

Do you accept suffering— or run from it?

Do you get mad at God when it arrives on your door step?

Or are you *quick to believe* the lie of another gospel—the prosperity gospel—which says that this life—the one on earth —is your best life now?

Are you slow to believe that a health crisis is for your own good?

Are you slow to believe that the pain you're in has very little to do with you— and has more to do with the *glory of God*?

The same thing can be said with our finances, retirement plans, kids, grandkids... you name it.

As Disciples, in what area are you slow to believe?

Its a question to consider this week and ask the risen Lord Jesus ,why that is.

Happy Easter, friends.

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

(May you) grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Pe. 3:18)

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