

I think it was 1<sup>st</sup> service Sunday morning I said, it can be difficult for pastors & preachers to sometimes officiate holiday services because you can feel a sense of pressure trying to keep a familiar topic fresh. & I said, "You can only read Luke's account to people so many times... but in this morning that is in fact *exactly* where I want you to turn 😊.

Luke 24:13-34

### "My Responsibility Regarding The Resurrection"

How many of you realize that the resurrection of J.C. imposes upon me a personal responsibility? #1 How am I going to respond *to* it? & #2 What am I going to do *w/it*?

By the time we roll up on the 13<sup>th</sup> Vs of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ch of the gospel of Luke, it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> day since Jesus has been taken, tried & crucified...

I was proud of my youngest son (Isaiah) the other day, there he was & we were praying before bed & one of the things he was thankful for was the fact that they didn't have any school on Friday 😊. God had ordained a 4-day week for them & that was something he was grateful for (& understandably so). When he was finished praying I said, "Why is it a 4-day week this week?" He said, "We get out of school for Good Friday." I thought, "It's interesting that the school system has systematically sought to *remove* God but they still take off for Good Friday." But hey, we'll take what we can get & any time we can point to Jesus we'll gladly do so. Anyway, I asked him, "Why is it called 'Good Friday'?" & He said, "Because that's the day that Jesus died on the cross for our sins." He was exactly right.

It seems almost counterintuitive to refer to a day that a righteous Man was taken, flayed open to the bone by a whip w/9 tails embedded w/fragments of sheep bone, led & glass to the point of such blood loss, dehydration & exhaustion that He couldn't even carry His cross to the sight of His execution but rather buckled under the weight of it... Had a crown of thorns beat down upon His head, was spat upon, mocked & nailed to a cross naked in open shame as a "good" day. & Under any other circumstances it would be a horrible day (& in some obvious respects it was). But it's not so much what happened *to* Jesus that makes it good, more what was happening *through* Jesus, as the Lamb of God was being slain for the sins of the world.

Because God is Perfect, He is Holy, He is Righteous. & If we hope to be w/Him than we to must be perfect, we must be holy, we must be righteous. Yet therein lies the problem. Because as mankind we have all sinned, we all fall short of the glory of God... The day Adam sinned he confined all of mankind from himself forward (which is all of us) to eternal condemnation & separation from God.

God had created Adam in perfection, he was w/out sin, enjoyed unbroken fellowship w/God. But the day that he chose to sin *against* God, eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil, he condemned us all. How so? Because he couldn't pass on what he didn't have. He *had* a sinless nature, but now he has a sinful nature & that's all he could give to all who came after him.

You say, "Well I don't know that I like the fact that one man's sin can condemn us all!" But ladies & gentlemen that's the wisdom of God! (& Paul addresses this in the book of Romans). Because if by one man's sin all can experience *condemnation*, then it only takes one Man's perfect righteousness for all to experience *salvation*. & I don't know about you, but I'm so glad I didn't have to try & attain to perfection on my own... I blew it the day I cried as a baby when there was nothing wrong, I proved I was a liar right then on that day! ☺ & That's the problem, *every man* is a liar, we've *all* sinned.

So what does God do? He sends His only begotten Son; born through a woman He's fully human & able to represent mankind. Conceived of the Spirit He's fully God & w/out sin... You know the story from here, right? He leads a sinless life, fulfills the law of God & stands in the gap on behalf of humanity. (You see it would take a perfect sacrifice to make perfect atonement, but who among us can provide a perfect sacrifice being *imperfect* ourselves? It couldn't be done...) Yet God so *loved* us that He sent His only begotten Son *for* us, & Jesus would take all of our sin upon Himself, shedding His blood, giving His life for us. For the wages of sin is death, so Jesus would die on our behalf & now even as in Adam all die, in Christ all are made alive to God.

Guys, that's why the bible says we have to be "born again". We're born physically in Adam, separated *from* God. When we believe in J.C. (from the heart) we're "born again" spiritually, our spirit is made alive *to* God. This is the work Jesus was about when on that Friday He laid down His life for you & for me. No one took His life, He laid it down (& He raised it up again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, praise God?)

& This is where we find ourselves in this morning's text. It's Sunday morning, & at 1<sup>st</sup> light the ladies made their way to the tomb. They didn't have time to properly prepare our Lord's body on Friday evening because the Sabbath was upon them. So as soon as they could get to the tomb Sunday morning they were on it. They weren't sure how they were going to roll the stone away, they just figured they'd worry about that when they got there. But as you well know when they got there the stone had *already* been rolled away... (Not so Jesus could get *out*, but so that they could get *in*). That's what they did. Look at Vs 3

## Vs 3-8

& Remembering His words they returned to the apostles & declared to them everything they'd seen & heard & guess what those men did..? They said, "Hallelujah! He's alive!" Is that what they did? No! Look at **Vs 11 (Read)**.

Family, the 1<sup>st</sup> skeptics of the resurrection were the disciples themselves. When you read the scriptures, you discover that the resurrection couldn't be the product of wishful thinking, not *one of them* was anticipating Jesus to rise again! **We sometimes can picture the apostles as men poised on the brink of belief & needing but a shadow of an excuse to believe & begin the campaign of spreading the news... But that's not true, they were covering in fear, afraid of finding themselves experiencing the same fate being His followers.**

## Vs 12

Peter needed to get away for a minute, he was needing a little time to decompress. He was there, he saw what they did to Jesus, he knew that he himself had *denied* even knowing Jesus 3xs & now he's looking at the cloths that wrapped Jesus, but He's no longer in them. It's almost like he wants to believe but he knows what he saw, it's impossible...

**Vs 13 begins a cut scene. If you were watching this as a movie you would watch Peter walk away from the tomb in dismay, shocked, saddened, wondering if he should be excited... & it would cut immediately to these 2 relatively obscure disciples walking down the road toward Emmaus (probably returning from Passover) & they're just talking about everything that has gone on.** How just a week ago Jesus was being hailed by the multitudes, people singing His praises (Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord) & a week later He's been killed in the most terrible of ways & they're simply in shock...Check it out.

## Vs 13-16

There's so much to love about this scene. So far Jesus has only revealed Himself as the Risen King to small handful of women. You might think that His next stop would be the 11 (Judas having hanged himself). **The big wigs who'd be men of historical renown! But no, these guys weren't famous, they were just 2 relatively anonymous followers of Jesus. As a matter of fact if Luke hadn't named one of them in Vs 18 we wouldn't know who they were at all. & Even at that what do you know about Cleopas? Which book of the bible did he write? None of them!** Yet Jesus chooses to *draw near to them, spend time w/them & make Himself known* to them. In the glory of His resurrection life, He gave Himself to these unknown, undistinguished individuals. Jesus didn't come for the "who's who", He came for the "Who's he?" The lowly, the humble.

& I love the fact that He was w/them even though they couldn't discern Him. Listen follower of Jesus; there will be times when you feel as though you're all alone, you won't discern the presence of Jesus, but He's w/you nonetheless. He will never leave you nor forsake you, He is always w/you... So here's Jesus, just walking next to these 2 guys & He strikes up a conversation.

### Vs 17-24

What would you give to have been there on that day knowing what you know & watching this go down? It's an atmosphere that is charged up & redlining w/anticipation. These guys have no clue! They're *schooling* Jesus on the things that happened *to* Jesus! "Are you the only stranger in all of Jerusalem? Don't you know about Jesus? How He spoke the *word* of God, & did the *works* of God, spoke mightily, worked miraculously among the people... But the chief priests & elders hated Him, arrested Him & delivered Him to be crucified... *We were hoping (we're not anymore, [again despondent, depressed, they weren't looking for Jesus to be alive]) that He would be the One to redeem Israel, but our hopes have been crushed. Beyond everything else it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> day since He's been crucified. A few women claimed they saw Him, but it seemed so far-fetched, they were acting all out of their minds... So Peter & John ran to the tomb & it was empty like the women said, but they didn't see Jesus so..."*

Do you see what's happening here? The only thing these disciples had to go on regarding the risen Christ was the testimony of others... but they were slow to believe. The report of the women didn't mean a whole lot to them, & Peter & John couldn't validate what the women said to them (*they* didn't see Him).

Jesus was wanting to know from them then what He wants to know from you today; can you believe w/out seeing w/your own eyes? Will you believe the reliable eyewitness account of others who've *seen* Him & have been changed *by* Him? Notice.

### Vs 25-27

Wow! Oh how we wish that they had written down all the things Jesus shared w/them on that day...

But check it out: Jesus *rebukes* their unbelief. He said, "O foolish ones." Can I just tell you that it's foolish not to believe in *all* of the word of God? *People like to pick & choose which parts they deem inspired, which parts they don't believe... you can't do that. Jesus says, "believe it all"!* You see, they evidently were prone to believe *certain parts*... Parts that pointed to the redemption of Israel, the rule & reign of their Messiah...

But passages that pointed *to* & dealt *with* His suffering & death just didn't sink in... But here in Vs 26 Jesus says that based upon the word of God the Christ (notice) "ought to have suffered these things" prior to entering His glory... It was needed, it was necessary that He be sacrificed for the sin of the world & rise from the grave having defeated sin & death. (Vs 27).

Jesus began to validate & substantiate & demonstrate from the scriptures the necessity of the suffering, the death & resurrection of the Christ (going all the way back to the beginning w/Moses & making His way through the Prophets) expounding on all the Scriptures pertaining to Himself.

Family you've heard me say it more than once & should the Lord tarry you'll hear it again & again. I am in love w/the fact that the bible is the only book on the planet that dares to lay it on the line by telling us the future before it happens... **There is no other book, no other source or resource on this earth will dare to authenticate & validate itself in this manner. God has in essence said, "You can put My word to the test, & I will prove to you that every word I say is true by telling you what's going to happen before it comes to pass." & Not just a day or 2 in advance, decades, centuries & millenniums in advance!**

In Isaiah 46 you find God rebuking Israel because they've sold themselves to idolatry rather than bowing before the Living God. & He says, "Who will you liken to Me? Who will you make My equal that we should be alike? You dish silver or gold out of a bag & hire a goldsmith to make you a god & you bow before it & worship it! You cry out to it, but it can't answer you or save you out of trouble." & Then He says, ***"Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done,"***<sup>1</sup>

In Romans 4 you find Paul speaking of the righteousness that comes by faith & speaking of Abraham believing God, (God having told him he'd have a son though he was an old man & his wife was barren [& passed the age of child bearing]). & He says, ***"God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;"***<sup>2</sup> God can speak of the future in the past tense because that's how certain His word is!

& When it comes to the Lamb of God slain for the sin of the world there are foreshadowings, prophecies & pictures of the death & resurrection of J.C. all throughout your O.T. In the *volume* of the book it is written of Him.

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Is 46:9-10]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ro 4:17]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus told the religious leaders of His day, **"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."**<sup>3</sup> They're really making a study of their bibles thinking it would make them right w/God, but the bible points us to Jesus & they refused to come to Him & believe *in* Him.

Jesus took these 2 disciples all the way back to the beginning. Even when Adam sinned & God was pronouncing the curse in Gen 3 He spoke of the enmity between the seed of the serpent the Seed of the woman, ("Wait, the woman doesn't carry the seed") that's right, it was a foreshadow of the virgin birth, the promise of a Savior. & He said that the serpent would bruise the Saviors heel (pointing to His death) but the Savior would crush the serpents head (pointing to His resurrection [defeating death's blow])...

Of course in the Exodus (during the Passover) we see a picture of the death of the spotless lamb, the shedding of its blood to save those found under the blood from the wrath of God. They were to take the blood of the lamb & smear some of it upon the doorposts & lintel of their door & those who by faith obeyed God were "passed over" when the Angel of the Lord passed through the land killing the 1<sup>st</sup> born of all who weren't found "under the blood of the lamb." **That lamb was to be roasted in the fire & completely consumed, none left till morning. Even so Jesus would endure the "heat" of God's wrath on our behalf being completely consumed becoming sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**

On & on it goes through the sacrificial system in the Mosaic law. He fulfilled the sin offering, the trespass offering, the peace offering. The people were learning that sin demanded death & apart from the shedding of blood there could be no *remission* of sin. But it was impossible for the blood of bulls & goats to atone for man, they were a foreshadowing, the fulfillment would be found in Christ.

Ps 22 is a graphic portrayal & prophecy of the crucifixion of Christ 1,000 yrs before it took place. We read of the mockery of the Messiah, His bones being dislocated & pulled out of joint, His dehydration, the piercing of His hands & feet, the casting of lots for His clothes. Here's the point, the cross was not a contingency plan, it was God's plan of redemption for mankind before the world was ever created.

Ps 16 prophesies plainly:

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<sup>3</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Jn 5:39-40]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*<sup>4</sup>

David wrote that but he's dead & buried, you can visit his memorial today... He saw corruption. Who then was he speaking of? Jesus whom God raised. Peter points that out in Acts Ch 2.

So Jesus took the time to go over all these things (& much, much more). He spoke out of Isaiah 53 how He would be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace would be placed upon Him & by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; & the Lord as laid on Him the iniquity of us all... He was delivered up for our offenses & raised up for our justification... & God had told mankind that He would do this for us again & again throughout history. Can you imagine listening to Jesus expound on all these passages that pertained to Himself???

### Vs 28-34

Now we come full circle. We began w/2 questions. Realizing that God had foretold of the death & resurrection of Christ throughout history, that He made it a physical reality... How will I respond to it & what am I going to do *with* it?

When it comes to responding to it, you have 1 of 2 choices. You can *receive* it (believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead) or you can *reject* it, play it off as nonsense. Rejecting it won't change what happened w/Jesus, but it will affect what happens w/you. It's a question upon which our eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

For those of you who've *received* it, the question is, what are you going to do w/it? You can bury it, be glad about it w/in yourself & not worry about anyone else (which seems counterintuitive & counterproductive to the entire reason Christ came) or you can do as these men & the other disciples did once it became real to them, you can get the good news out, Jesus is alive...

Study the book of Acts, even beginning on the very day of Pentecost, once the Holy Spirit had come upon the disciples, Peter stood up & preached a message, what was it about? The death & resurrection of J.C. & the hope of salvation that we have through faith in Him. Leave Luke's gospel turn over to Acts Ch 2 (Vs 22-32, 36-39).

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 16:9-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Years & years later you find Paul testifying before king Agrippa (having been arrested for preaching in the name of J.C.) & he says to him as he's making his defense, *"Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."*<sup>5</sup>

Guys, it's all about the death & resurrection of J.C. The entirety of our hope hangs upon it. If Christ isn't risen than our faith is futile, we're still in our sins... But Christ *is* risen from the dead. Respond to it, receive it, be responsible with it, preach the gospel, "Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, He was buried & He rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the Scriptures." He. Is. Risen. Amen? Amen.

### Prayer Points:

God we thank You for the power of the resurrection. That You sent Your only begotten Son to die for us that we might live by faith in Him. & Father we're asking that You would place the urgency in our heart to be faithful w/the message that You've entrusted to us. That we not be ashamed of the gospel, but that You would increase our faith & be glorified in our lives.

Perhaps today you're sensing the call of God upon your heart to turn from your sin & trust in Him. If so I want to invite you to believe upon the Lord J.C. who has loved you & given Himself for you. Don't resist Him, receive Him... from the heart, let Him change your life right here, right now.

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<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ac 26:22-23]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.