

What Jesus Taught After He Rose From the Dead

Luke 24:13-53

Open

I recently heard a story - told as if it were true.

The Easter Legend of the Dogwood Tree

The legend goes that in the days of Christ, the Dogwood tree was a much larger, strong-trunked tree, much different than the smaller tree we are so fond of now. The story continues that when Christ was crucified, His cross was made of the sturdy bark of the Dogwood tree, and (as the legend goes) God both cursed and blessed the Dogwood tree the day His Son died. He cursed it by making it much smaller than it was, and blessed it by having it bloom every year during the Easter season as an additional reminder to the world of Jesus' love.

Each bloom on a Dogwood tree has four petals, symbolizing a cross (as the legend tells it). At the end of each petal, there is a small indentation to remind us of the nails that pierced Jesus' hands and feet. The center of each flower on the tree has a nubby look to it, reminding us of the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head at the time of His crucifixion. And many times on the Dogwood flower, there are colors of red dotted on the bloom when you look closely, reminding us of the blood Jesus poured out for us.

Though a fun story, and it lacks power and truth.

While there are many fanciful legends in our day, the Resurrection is NOT one of them.

I want to tell you that story today.

***The question to consider today is, what did Jesus teach AFTER he rose from the dead?**

On a Friday, 2000 years ago, a man was sentenced to death – no trial – he wasn't found guilty of anything except going against the culture – the social rules of the day.

- On the cross – he said with his mouth what his life proclaimed – **“forgive them for they know not what they do”**
- After many hours on the cross, The soldiers went to break the legs of Jesus, but they found him dead.
- Jesus had already declared **“It is finished”**
- When he died, the centurion recognized who Jesus really was.
- **Matthew 27:51–54 (ESV) — 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and**

coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. **54** When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Mt 27:59-60 Joseph of Arimathea then took Jesus from the cross and laid him in a tomb.

Saturday – The body of Jesus was in the tomb

Sunday at dawn – there was an earthquake (Mt 28) and some of the women went to the tomb and saw angels. **What did the angels say?**

Luke 24:6–9 (ESV): He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8** And they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest

Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead.

- Death has no hold on him, his life returned – he rose victorious over sin and death.
- **Do you wonder what he told the world AFTER he was raised?**

What Did Jesus do the rest of the day?

- You know, it was his first day risen from the dead – did he rest – what did he do?
- After appearing to 500 people at one time (**1 Cor 15**) – he appeared to 2 special people.
- They were headed to a city mentioned only once in Scripture.
- Emmaus.
- As they walked along talking about the events of the weekend (**Lk 24:14**), Jesus came up and walked with them.

Jesus asked the men about their conversation.

Luke 24:18 (ESV): 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?”

Funny isn’t it. The men who think they know what happened are telling the only guy who actually does know what happened that he doesn’t know what happened.

So Jesus humbly replies...

Luke 24:19–21 (ESV) — 19 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, **20** and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **21** 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.

Did you catch that? They didn't say anything wrong, **they just left out the most important part.** They told Jesus that he was a "mighty prophet, how he died and was buried – and how some said he was now alive!" (Lk 24:19-21)

They missed the most important part – they said he would "redeem Israel" – that is, to save them from Roman oppression.

But Jesus had a different type of redemption in mind. We know he didn't like their response – here's what Jesus told them.

Luke 24:25–27 (ESV) — 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

That is one conversation I wish we had recorded.

- Jesus explaining the OT passages about himself.
- See – he miraculously kept his identity from them to find out what they truly thought about him.
- **Lk 24:31** – "their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And then he vanished from their sight."
- So the men went back to Jerusalem – and found the 11 Apostles.

So now we are back in Jerusalem

- The Apostles and many others are gathered together.

Jesus has already appeared to Peter, 500 others and to the two on the road to Emmaus.

- Many of these were gathered
- This group was trying to figure out what to make of the weekend.
- Talking about the events
- Jesus was doing the disappearing thing – that's new
- Jesus died – that was shocking
- Jesus rose from the dead – that was even more shocking
- Jesus is appearing to people all over the region
- Not only that, but he looks different after the resurrection

- He had the same body, but different.
- The same face, but changed.
- And when he appears, he keeps startling people

What did he say to them?

- Well, one passage records what he said.
- It was profound.

Let's listen in.

Luke 24:44–45 (ESV) — **44** Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything** written about me in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

2 Profound Implications of the Resurrection of Jesus, from his own words.

- He told them why he went to the cross.
- He told them what they were to do.

Explain

POINT 1 Why Jesus Went to the Cross

- To fulfill Scripture – And that was the message before the cross.
- Jesus' purpose was to fulfill the words of the Bible.
- Now – this is a mini-lesson in what books should be in the Bible –
- Look at verse 44
 - “The Law of Moses” – that's the first 5 books.
 - The Prophets – Joshua, book 6 and forward
 - The Psalms – that's the rest – wisdom books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
 - 39 books of the OT – they had those in the temple
 - Even then, they still had to rely on Jesus for understanding
- Many people don't like God keeping people from understanding Scripture – but gathered in this room are the most educated followers of Jesus on the planet. What did Jesus have to do? “Open their minds”
- **Luke 24:45 (ESV)** — **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
- If he had to open theirs, he has to open yours.
- Has he? Do you understand the Bible? If so, God has opened your mind to do so.

Jesus then summarizes what was written about him.

Luke 24:46 (ESV) — 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ **should suffer** and on the third day rise from the dead,

This is what Jesus went around telling people.

- The Christ – Messiah – **must suffer**

Did he suffer? Yes – **Mt 27:26** – Pilate had Jesus scourged

- Scourged – whip made of bones and metal – tore into his back
- **Mt 27:26-31** – crushed a crown of thorns into his head, mocked him, spit on him, beat his face
- **Isaiah 52:14** says “**his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance**”
 - That means – his punishment was brutal
 - But do we find Jesus complaining about that?
 - Do we find him talking about how rough it was, how tough life is, or how he needed a breakthrough?
 - No – he compelled them to consider the truth of the scripture
 - And all of his life – the deep trial – the crucifixion and torture – was part of God’s plan
 - “**Rising on the third day**” – part of the plan

Why? Why was all that necessary?

- Look in **Lk 24:47**
- **Luke 24:47 (ESV) — 47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- Why was it necessary? So that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name.

This day – I proclaim repentance to you.

- Let all who have ears, hear the **gospel of Jesus**

- **You must turn from your sin.**
- Jesus didn’t just come so that we could have church
- He certainly didn’t come so that we could enjoy our favorite ministry and people
- He came because someone perfect needed to die
- He died and rose from the dead – because God will punish sin
- It was either punished in Christ on the cross – or people will burn in Hell forever.
- Forever!
- Turn to Jesus!
- Look unto him who died so that you could live.

- His message before the cross was “repentance and forgiveness”
- His message after the cross was “repentance and forgiveness” – and he said that was a fulfillment of everything written about him in Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms
- **Oh the great joy** to have one’s sins forgiven.
- To know the love of Jesus
- To be set free from the burden of sin
- To enjoy a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus
- To know him – To serve him – to live for him
- If you love Jesus, you will obey him – repentance isn’t just turning from sin – it is turning TO Jesus.
- All who love Jesus know him, they know his voice and obey him
- And as you’ll see, live lives of Joyful worship to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

APPLY

- Have you repented of your sins?
- Do you believe that Jesus died and rose again?
- Do you believe that ONLY Jesus brings forgiveness?

Yes? Then here is what you are called to do. And Jesus impressed this on his followers over and over again.

- **If you are saved, here’s what your life is about.**

POINT 2 We are His Witnesses

Luke 24:48 (ESV) — 48 You are witnesses of these things.

What things?

The Gospel.

As told in the OT – Law of Moses, the Prophets, the Psalms

As revealed in the NT – the Gospels – the 27 books of the NT.

The faith that was “once for all handed down to the saints” – Jude 3

You are witnesses of these things.

A witness is someone who tells what they know.

- They give testimony

- We must not just mention that Jesus lived, died and rose on the third day – we must also give the message.
- A call to action - **Repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name!**

We are witnesses of the greatest miracle in history.

That Jesus has changed us and made us new, according to his glorious gospel.

What did that group do with this message?

They changed the world.

Luke 24:50–53 (ESV) — 50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **51** While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **52** And they **worshiped him** and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**, **53** and **were continually in the temple blessing God**.

Conclusion

- May this day be a day of worship and great joy – for **JESUS HAS RISEN!**

Prayer & Reflection

Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything in the message that ministered to your soul?
2. Were there any questions you had from the message or passage?

3. How did Jesus prove himself alive from this passage?
4. What was the charge Jesus gave the disciples?
5. Why do you think Jesus kept pointing back to the Scriptures in his conversations?
6. Read 1 John 1:1-3. How do these passages connect?
7. What example does this passage set for us in regard to our own study of the Scriptures?
8. How can the resurrection give us boldness in ministry?