

Luke 24:36-53

I. The Open Tomb v1-12

1 on the first day of the week....they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus

1. Jesus died.
2. Jesus rose again.
3. He was seen by Eyewitnesses.

II. Open Scriptures v13-27

13 two of them were going to a village named Emmaus....While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him....beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The Old Testament's primary purpose is not to give you a list of rules to obey, laws to follow, feasts to celebrate, and ceremonies to observe. The OT's primary purpose is to point us to Christ.

1. It does just that and Jesus unfolds it for these disciples
2. He went from Moses through all the prophets to explain to them how the OT Scriptures speak of Him.

III. Open Eyes v28-35

28 And they approached the village where they were going...He went in to stay with them. 30 When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him

1. It is in the breaking of bread that their eyes were opened
2. The Gospel is remembered, proclaimed, and witnessed as we take the Lord's supper!

Now we pick up where we left off last week...

IV. Open Minds v36-45

36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them. 44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are 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,

1. Until our minds are opened by the power of Christ, the words of the Scripture are just words on a page.
2. The gospel is just religious murmuring
3. The bible is boring, outdated, irrelevant.
4. The natural mind is not captivated by the things of God...he just doesn't get it. He can't!

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

General vs. Effectual Calling

1. We extend the general call to all men...none of whom care, believe, or show interest.
2. So why extend the general call? Because God will, according to His will, extend an effectual or effective call with our general call.
3. He will use the general call to all, to open the minds of His chosen people, and make that call effective.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 *knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction*

1. Without him opening our minds and awakening our hearts to the gospel, we are without hope...and you know this...that is why you pray for your lost loved ones to be saved...because you know God has to do it.

2. John 6:44 *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him*

V. Open Borders v46-49

46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Jesus didn't really put any qualifications on this. He just gave His command, made it clear, and said go figure out how to make it happen.

1. Matt 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

2. Jesus didn't give us any ifs, ands, or buts. Just the clear and binding command to get the gospel from here to the ends of the earth.

- a. **This is not a calling**
- b. **It is a command**
- c. **So, we can go, we can send (giving and praying) or we can disobey.**

3. As the one who has all authority, He opened the borders with His command

4. *"There are no closed doors to the Gospel, provided that, once you go through the door, you don't care whether or not you come back out."* Brother Andrew

5. The Disciples did just that...and laid down their lives to get the gospel throughout Israel, Ethiopia, Egypt, Greece, Armenia, India, and on.

This leads me to some personal question...as I stand up here and bloviate week after week about missions....

1. What am I willing to lay down?
2. How can I best use my life to get the gospel out?

Those 2 questions have led my family to make a pretty radical decision I want to share with you as we think about Jesus' command to go.

Mandy and I have really tried to put our blank check on the table before the Lord with our lives and ministry. We have seen the Lord shut doors over the years, but a few months back a missionary friend messaged me about a need that seemed to be a good fit for my gifting, experience, and passions. We have decided, with much fear and prayer to take that job.

The mission organization is rtim.org It is a fast growing SBC mission org that's primary purpose is to train indigenous leaders/national pastors with the goal of developing healthy churches around the globe. The job I was offered is titled Training Facilitator (for an unnamed region...if you know me, you know where I am most passionate about). My job will be to make connections, travel to, and set up training centers throughout that region of the world. I will serve as a type of middle man between my region and the US to connect the 2 in order to provide trainings.

Its time for me to stop talking about the mission and urging others to leave their safety nets and its and its time lead by example.

I want to make sure you, and the church understand that the church has 0 to do with us leaving. There are dozens of pastors that would give their right arm to be at this church.

We have mixed emotions walking away from all of this for the unknown, but my heart is restless in the pastorate and it is time to stop just talking about the mission and devote more of ourselves to that mission and to the peoples that God has put on our hearts.

I know that the timing is not the most ideal...with the McNews on the runway this month, and the Penfolds backing out of the gate...It is not our desire to take away from them in any way. We have committed not to do so.

Currently I am working with the ministers and personnel committee to put together a smooth transition plan. More info will be made available as that plan continues to take shape and solidify. The very earliest we would be leaving is mid/late October and the very latest would be towards the end of the year. You will be given updates along the way...and if you have any questions whatsoever, or want to discuss in more detail what we are going to be doing, please please let me know. That is one of the reasons I wanted to get this news out ASAP...so that we would have plenty of time to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

VI. Open Skies v50-53

50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising God.

1. The skies opened to receive Him into His heavenly Kingdom, bodily, alive forevermore.
2. He has ascended to the right hand of the Father until the Kingdom is to be consummated.
3. And then...those skies will open again.

Acts 1:10-11 *And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."*

He is coming again! Are you ready?

1. The tomb is opened and the Scriptures have been opened to you this morning.
2. Have your eyes been opened? Has your mind been opened? Believe today! The whole sermon series was meant to help us answer the question: Who is Jesus?
3. The borders are open...how can you be used of God to get the gospel to the ends of the earth before those skies reopen and there are no more second chances?