



Resurrection

Luke 24

Study Helps and Application

Jesus' death on the cross made salvation possible for sinners like us. It is impossible to over emphasize the significance of Jesus' atoning death on our behalf. So what about the resurrection of Jesus, how important is it?

This past Sunday we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ryan spoke on the *reality, nature, and meaning* of the resurrection. We'll be tying them all together in some important areas of application.

Discussion 1: Is the *reality* of the Resurrection essential? OK... everybody says yes like they are supposed to. Let's dig a little deeper and ask: Why?

- ***Read 1 Cor. 15:14-19 and list the other things that are true if Jesus is not really raised.***

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 15:14-19** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) our [the Apostles] preaching is in vain (2) your faith is in vain (3) We [the Apostles] are ... misrepresenting God | } | a false gospel |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4) your faith is futile and you are still in your sins (5) those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished (6) we are of all people most to be pitied | } | that cannot save |

- ***Read John 2:19-21 and discuss the implications if Jesus was not really raised.***

^{ESV} **John 2:19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

[Jesus is demonstrated to be a false prophet. *What are broader implications?* Could the death of a false prophet atone for the sins of anyone? No. Here we see that even the atonement stands or falls with the resurrection! *Meaning for us: His Word is true; He predicted it to happen*]

- *Read Romans 1:1-4 and discuss the implications if Jesus was not really raised.*

^{ESV} **Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and **was declared to be the Son of God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness **by his resurrection from the dead**, Jesus Christ our Lord

[Paul here bases Jesus' very identity as the Son of God on the fact of the resurrection. *Meaning for us: He is the Lord--and the other things He says are true as well (Judgment and Hell)*]

- *Is the reality of the Resurrection credible?*

[Now that we've established that the Resurrection is an essential (worth contending for), it is helpful to have good reasoning/evidences for your beliefs.

Reminder--we do not advocate a *blind* faith! Biblical faith is a believing trust in something/Someone proven trustworthy. Review the reasons Ryan gave:

- Who were the primary witnesses? [*In first century, women were not allowed to testify in court... if you wanted people to believe your tale as true, you would not have used women's testimonies so prominently.*]
- How are the pillars of the faith portrayed? [*As "slow" ... that's really funny if you think about it.*]
- Diverse/consistent accounts with varying detail. [*Perfectly consistent accounts by witnesses are evidence of one thing... collusion (they got together and decided exactly what to say). These accounts are very much as one would expect people to differ in their recollection.*]
- Spread in hostile environment/martyrdom [*Yes, it is true that people die for all sorts of causes, but how many die for something that they **know** is a lie? Keep in mind the disciples didn't die for what they believed so much as what they testified to be true.*]

Reminder--Apologetics (defense of the faith) is helpful, but don't allow it to become primary. We are called to preach to the conscience.

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 4:2** But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

When we get caught up in proving it to someone, we can forget how this really works (every believer is a walking resurrection miracle! Col 2:13; Eph 2:5).

^{ESV} **Romans 10:14** How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"¹⁷ **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.** (*Not your proofs!*)

Discussion 2: The Answer to Life and Death People naturally fear death. A good question we should consider and encourage others to consider is “Can Jesus Christ be trusted with my death?” or “Can you trust Jesus Christ with your death?”

- *Jesus as the Author of Life.* Read and discuss Acts 3:14-15, Col 1:15-17, John 1:1-3

^{ESV} **Acts 3:14** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

^{ESV} **Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

^{ESV} **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[When you have questions about something, it is good to go to the source. Creator of everything includes life. “firstborn” is not a term related to sequence, but of authority/ position and does not mean that Jesus is a created being.]

- *Jesus’ Authority Over Life and Death.* Read and discuss Jesus’ claims for Himself and his people. John 10:17-18; Matt. 28:6; Acts 1:3; John 6:37-54

Jesus Makes the Claim For Himself

^{ESV} **John 10:17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

... and kept His Word

^{ESV} **Matthew 28:6** He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

^{ESV} **Acts 1:3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Jesus Makes the Claim For Believers

^{ESV} **John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and **whoever comes to me I will never cast out.** ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that **I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.** ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, **and I will raise him up on the last day.** ... ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. **And I will raise him up on the last day.** ... ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, **and I will raise him up on the last day.**

[Given by the Father, ... none cast out, ... none lost ... , raised up on the last day by the Son.]

... so can YOU believe he'll keep his Word?

- *Jesus' Victory Over Death*. Read and discuss 1 Cor 15:51-58.

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 15:51** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and **we shall be changed**. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- Implications about our own resurrection? [certain, imperishable, immortal ...]
- Confident of this, we should be ... [look for the "Therefore, ..."]

Discussion 3: "How can we keep quiet about that?" --Where does the resurrection fit in gospel proclamation? In the book of Acts we find the beginning of God's Spirit filled and empowered people proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and calling people to repent and believe.

- *Read Acts 2:24-35; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30-32; 10:39-40; 13:33-37 and note how each time the content of a gospel proclamation is given (except Stephen), the resurrection is part of the testimony.*

[There are times where the text just records that they "told the good news" (e.g. 8:35), where we aren't given the content of the message. Stephen was cut off before he got there, but still managed to "see the Son of Man" (alive!) right after he'd accused them of betraying and murdering "the Righteous One." (7:52-58)]

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Additional Resources

- *The Resurrection of Christ* by J. Gresham Machen (from *Historic Christianity* collection)
<http://homepage.mac.com/shanerosenthal/reformationink/jgmresurrection.htm>
- *Verifying The Resurrection--Six Evidences*, by James Montgomery Boice
<http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Last%20Things/resurrection.html>
- More from monergism.com
http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/Jesus-Christ/Resurrection/



Resurrection

Luke 24

Passion Week – a time to walk ourselves through the drama of the story of the week leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- **Triumphal Entry**
- **Passover meal – the last supper (AKA, the first Lord’s Supper)**
- **Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, Beatings, Crucifixion**
- **Now, it’s Sunday – the Resurrection**

1. THREE POST-RESURRECTION SCENES (in Luke 24)

Scene 1: Morning at the Tomb (1-12)

READ 1-12

V 7 - Jesus had told of his death and resurrection many times before

Luke 9:22 The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day." [also in 18:33]

Notice Peter’s response (12) – it says he was “*marveling at what happened.*”

Now that could mean two things:

- **either 1)** that he immediately **understood, believed,** and was **excited,**
 - **or 2)** that he was **confused.** The word could be translated either way.
- I think it’s the latter – that Peter was **perplexed.** He’s trying to figure out what’s going on.

Scene 2: Afternoon Out on the Road (13-35)

Give an overview of this scene.

Scene 3: Evening in a Disciple’s House (36-49)

READ 36-43

2. THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

These are **nice little stories,** but **are they true?** Did they **really happen?** I believe they did.

One Reason is that The Nature of These Accounts is Peculiar

- The women as the first witnesses to the empty tomb
 - I said on Fri, in these days a woman’s testimony couldn’t be used in court
- Almost all of the others are **quick to doubt, slow to believe.** You even have the apostles at first calling it “nonsense” (11). And one of the key leaders of the whole Christian movement (Peter) wondering what this empty tomb thing is all about – he’s perplexed.

- The accounts (Matt, Mk, Lk, Jn) are **diverse** and **yet consistent**.
- These accounts record **mysterious / unexplainable** things, AND the **simplest** of things.
 - Jesus just disappears from his meal with the two!?
 - He asks to eat some fish – and he eats *broiled* fish while the rest watch him

Acts 10:40-41 *God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.*

→ They very much have the **smell** of “**first-hand witnesses**” about them.

Other indications that this is true...

- News of and belief in the Resurrection spread quickly in an hostile environment.
- The disciples willing to die for this belief.

What are the other Options?

1. the **women** just went to the **wrong tomb**?
2. the **swoon theory** - he didn't really die (but that's not going to impress anyone)
3. the **disciples removed** the body (but then they would die for a lie!)
4. the **Romans** or **Jews removed** the body (best one – “*for fear of the disciples stealing the body and claiming resurrection, thy Romans or Jews took it away and hid it so that the disciples couldn't steal and claim he had risen as he said he was going to.*”

But the problem: the disciples did claim that he rose from the dead, and **all the authorities would have had to do is to show the body.**)

3. THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

The Nature of the Resurrection is that it is SHOCKING

- It is either shockingly **strange**
- Or shockingly **scary**
- Or shockingly **saving**

We're all very COMFORTABLE with Easter. Even if you're not a Christian, even if you don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead, you probably don't mind Easter.

- Maybe for you, it's just a **nice family time** – bunnies, eggs, new spring clothes, big meal
- Or maybe you're even okay with a **little religion that day** (go to church). You don't want to think hard about what it means; why you're here; whether Christ really rose from the dead, but you're okay with at least going to church.
- Or maybe you're OK with Easter because you have **thought about** some of the **theology**, maybe even read a book or two on Jesus, and you've come to believe that Jesus **didn't really rise from the dead**. You've come to believe that these Bible stories about his resurrection just represent new life, new beginnings – represent Jesus in spirit still being alive.

But look at the EMOTIONS of the disciples in Lk 24

- Terrified (5)
- Doubt (11 – “Nonsense”)

- Confusion (12 - “marveling”)
- Sadness (17)
- Hearts burning (32)
- Startled and Frightened (37)
- Joy and Amazement (41)

Such a **wide array of responses and emotions**, but **none of them is indifferent**. No one thinks that any of this is just “**nice**.” No one’s yawning.

Jesus and specifically his resurrection is

- either shockingly **strange (and if so, that begs working it out / thinking it through)**
- Or shockingly **scary**
- Or shockingly **saving**

We Need something this BIG, this AWESOME, this DECISIVE, this TRANSFORMING

The two disciples walking on the road were depressed and defeated when they thought Jesus was dead. You see, for them, if Jesus was dead, their **hope was dead**. He was their hope. They were hoping he would be a political force, a powerful king, who would lead a revolt against the Romans.

But he died. But if Jesus is just a man, he was going to die anyway, right? They shouldn’t be surprised by their own reaction to his death.

That’s one thing **all great leaders have in common - they die**. Some are better leaders than others, but none of them live forever, so how great can they be?

We need a leader who can **do more** than get a lot done **before his death**, we need a leader who can **conquer death!**

4. THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION

1. The Resurrection Means that JESUS’ WORD is TRUE

- he predicted all this to happen

2. The Resurrection Means that JESUS is LORD

Acts 17:30-31 *having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*

They’re looking for the true God (23), and that’s what Paul is explaining to them.

- Jesus is God in the flesh.
- He is the judge.

3. The Resurrection Means that Jesus has the ANSWER to LIFE and DEATH

We **die** because of **sin**

He **died** for **sins**

1 Cor 15:17 *if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*

The end of Lk 24 has a summary of the story and a summary of Jesus' teaching

It says that he died and rose *"for forgiveness of sins"* (47)

Forgiveness is received through **repentance** and **faith** (two sides to one coin)

- they are illustrated in the parable of the **tax collector and the Pharisee** (18:9-14)
(study that next week)

Do you see your *need to be so great* that it needs *nothing less than a Savior who dies and is raised?*

4. The Resurrection Means that God has forever UNITED HIMSELF to his CREATION

- he forever became one of us. He hands and feet, flesh and bones - he's touchable.

He **EATS!** How remarkable and weird is that part about him eating fish?!

They think he's a ghost. He tells them he's not. And he eats to show them he's not.

- This is not a spiritualized story
- This is not a spiritualized person (not just a spirit)

We believe Jesus is the **God-man** - fully God, fully human.

Christians are NOT Gnostics.

- We **don't believe** that the **physical** is **evil** and the **spiritual** is **where it's at**.
- We **don't believe** that the **end of time** will mean a **freedom** from the body, but a renewal of the body with all of creation

→ IE *there's MEANING NOW....and HOPE LATER*

5. That summary at the end of Lk 24 also says that all this should be PROCLAIMED (47)

If he really rose from the dead

- What he said is true
 - He is Lord
 - He has the answer to life and death
 - He has united himself to his creation
 - He lives forever and we will live with him
- **HOW CAN WE KEEP QUIET ABOUT THAT?**

Next Week's Text

Luke 18:9-14



Resurrection

Luke 24

Discussion 1: Is the reality of the Resurrection essential? Why?

- *Read 1 Cor. 15:14-19 and list the other things that are true if Jesus is not really raised.*

- *Read John 2:19-21 and discuss the implications if Jesus was not really raised.*

- *Read Romans 1:1-4 and discuss the implications if Jesus was not really raised.*

- *Is the reality of the Resurrection credible? (Review reasons given in sermon)*

Discussion 2: The Answer to Life and Death “Can you trust Jesus Christ with your death?”

- *Jesus as the Author of Life.* Read and discuss Acts 3:14-15, Col 1:15-17, John 1:1-3

- *Jesus’ Authority Over Life and Death.* Read and discuss Jesus’ claims for Himself and his people. John 10:17-18; Matt. 28:6; Acts 1:3; John 6:37-54

“... so can YOU believe he’ll keep his Word?”

- *Jesus' Victory Over Death.* Read and discuss 1 Cor 15:51-58.
 - *Implications about our own resurrection?*
 - *Confident of this, we should be ...*

Discussion 3: "How can we keep quiet about that?" --Where does the resurrection fit in gospel proclamation?

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