

Resurrection Hope for Now and Later

Luke 24:1-49

Grace Fellowship Church / April 9, 2023 / Pastor Peter LaRuffa

Luke 24:1-49 “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ 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. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened. ¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, ‘What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?’ And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ 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?’ 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find His body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.’ 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. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged Him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?’ ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you!’ ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw 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 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and He took it and ate before them. 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, ⁴⁶ and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from

Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

3 Ways Easter Radically Changes Our Lives Right Now

I. Since Jesus rose from the dead, He is LORD...and that changes the way we think!

Acts 2:23-24, 36-38 “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ **God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death**, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it...³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made Him both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified. ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸ And Peter said to them, ‘**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Peter says since Jesus has defeated death, God has made Him “**both Lord and Christ**,” and therefore they must **repent**.

Acts 17:30-31 “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **He commands all people everywhere to repent**, ³¹ because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this **He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead**.”

Paul’s time with the philosophers in Athens goes well, until he mentions the fact Jesus has been raised from the dead. Why? Because Him having defeated death makes Him Lord!

John 14:6 “Jesus said to Him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

In other words, the search is over! We don’t look back on Christ fondly as One who lived well but is gone. Christ is alive and well so we can stop searching and start living for Him.

II. Since Jesus rose from the dead, we have a FUTURE with Him...and that changes the way we live!

Hebrews 13:14-16 “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name**. ¹⁶ **Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God**.”

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means we can live life differently now without fear that we’re “missing out.” We can live radically for the Lord now because this world is not our home. We can have courage to stand, confidence to speak, and a heart to sacrifice, whatever the cost. We know the best is yet to come!

III. Since Jesus rose from the dead, we can spend eternity with Him in heaven...but can also have Him NOW.

Since Jesus’ resurrection is real, you can leave here changed today.

What about you? Has the resurrection of Jesus had a radical impact on your life, or is it nothing more than a brief inspirational moment that comes and goes each and every year?

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Has the resurrection of Jesus had a radical impact on your life, or is it nothing more than a brief inspirational moment that comes and goes each and every year?
 2. Jesus. Is. Alive. Do you have Him in your life? Why or why not?
 3. Do you think you're trying to live in the middle ground of just being aware of or comfortable with the Easter Story?
 4. Jesus is alive today and He calls you to make a choice to either follow Him or reject Him. What will you do?
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How Can I Learn More On My Own?

Great question.

It's been said that ours is "a faith in the sufficiency of the evidence." **If you would like to learn more about the Resurrection of Jesus**, consider visiting these websites to learn more about what Christians know and believe:



answersingenesis.org/jesus-christ/resurrection/introduction — A series of articles addressing the importance of and objections to the Resurrection (also available as a book, *In Defense of Easter*).



gotquestions.org/empty-tomb.html — A short article describing the importance of the empty tomb of Jesus with links to more answers.

If you would like to learn more about what it means to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, consider visiting one of these websites:



NeedGod.com — A short test to see if you are good enough to get to Heaven.



twowaystolive.com — A simple exploration of which king you are serving.

As always, if you'd like to talk more about this, I'd love to chat! Please let me know.