

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**Why the Resurrection Matters**  
**Luke 24:31-43**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / July 14, 2024*

**I. The Resurrection Should Not Leave You Unmoved**

When you look at the way the disciples responded to the resurrection of Jesus here in these verses, “comfortable” would never be one of the best word choices.

The verses say they were “terrified,” “frightened,” “troubled,” and then they were filled with “joy and marveled.”

The resurrection of Jesus should either terrify you or move you to rejoice – but it was never meant to be some kind of safe middle ground!

If you understand the resurrection the way the disciples understood it, you’ll either be moved to absolute terror or absolute joy, but you won’t just be comfortable with it.

**II. The Resurrection Is A Part Of Real History**

**Luke 24:42** “They gave Him a piece of broiled fish...”

The only possible reason for these kind of details is that Luke wanted to drive home to us that Jesus literally and physically stood there and people watched Him eating a fish. He even tells us how it was cooked.

Luke never intended to give us an inspirational legend; he was reporting historical facts! And so, he gives unnecessary details – lots of them! You don’t write legends this way. When you read this, you have to realize, “This is a truth claim.”

It’s the same thing you’ll notice in Luke Chapter 2 and 3 where he gives what seems like way too many details about who was ruling, when they ruled, and where they ruled.

**Luke 3:1-2** “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.”

Why is this cluttered up with so many historical details? Because Luke was not writing a legend! He was recording history! He wants you to know that Jesus was real. His life was real. His death was real. His resurrection was real. It took place in history!

The resurrection was designed to rock your world one way or the other. Either be terrified and outraged over the audacious claims of the resurrection or throw up your hands in rejoicing and dance for what God has done to solve your biggest problem. You can’t just settle into a comfortable, non-existent, sleepy middle ground. Jesus and the Bible writers simply do not give you that option!

### III. The Resurrection Confirms He Is Lord

Jesus is not a myth, a legend, or a hero in some fairytale. If He rose from the dead then He is Lord!

The apostle Paul understood this well when he went into the city of Athens and up onto Mars Hill or the Areopagus, and he began to lecture and talk to the council of philosophers that were always gathered there. At first, they were loving it because they had no greater joy than debating and listening to new ideas – even about God because they didn't deny the existence of God and they certainly allowed for a concept of God. In fact, they allowed for many, many, many gods.

But there was a definitive turning point in Acts 17 when Luke tells us that Paul said to them in v. 30 and 31:

**Acts 17:30-31** “These times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead.”

Paul was saying, “The search for God is over. He's here. It's time for a decision now.” No more debating, and philosophizing, and trying to piece it all together. We don't have to guess anymore. God has come in the person of Jesus Christ, so it's time to repent!

The philosophers on Mars Hill knew that the resurrection of Jesus Christ meant that Christianity was claiming about its founder something far different than any other religion.

By rising from the dead, Jesus was showing us that He's not like the founder of any other religion. He's the firstborn from the dead. He's the son of God and He's crushed our greatest fear—death—and solved our biggest problem—which is the sin that separates us from a holy God.

Jesus didn't die and rise again and ascend to the Father so He could live on in a spiritual never-never land. He did this so that anyone who believes can have access to Him wherever you are—by faith.

You can have a personal relationship with the living Jesus Christ because He's no longer in the tomb and can now live inside of you!

He's alive today and He calls you to make a decision to either follow Him or reject Him, but please don't treat Him like some inspirational myth.