

Why Jesus Is Better

Luke 24:13-35

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 5, 2026 (Easter)

Luke 24:13-35 “That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. ¹⁷And He said to them, ‘What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?’ And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?’ ¹⁹And 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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.’ ²⁵And He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?’ ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, ²⁹but 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. ³⁰When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?’ ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. We all have a “we had hoped...” moment.

Luke 24:21 “**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.”

A. Misplaced hope will always disappoint you.

- a. Circumstances
- b. Outcomes
- c. Relationships
- d. Religion
- e. Yourself

*You will place your hope in something.
The question is whether it can actually hold you.*

II. Jesus did what you actually needed.

Luke 24:26 “**Was it not necessary** that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?”

A. The cross was not a tragedy - it was a necessity.

Luke 24:7 "...that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

Mark 8:31 "And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again."

B. Our greatest is not our situation - it's our sin.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

C. Every system says: do more, try harder, be better.
Jesus says: it is finished.

- a. Not more effort → a finished work
- b. Not repeated sacrifice → once for all
- c. Not uncertainty → full forgiveness

*Jesus didn't come to meet your expectations.
He came to meet your deepest need*

III. Everything changes when you see Jesus for who He really is.

Luke 24:31 "And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him..."

A. The resurrection is not just something to believe - it changes everything.

a. It changes how you face death.

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 "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. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

b. It changes how you live today.

Romans 6:4 "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

B. Jesus is not dead. He is alive!

Luke 24:32 "They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us...?'"

*Jesus isn't just someone to understand. He's alive!
And when you see Him for who He truly is,
everything changes.*

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Where have you found yourself saying, "I had hoped..."? What does that reveal about where your hope is placed?
2. Why is it important that Jesus' death was necessary, not accidental?

3. In what ways are you tempted to rely on your own effort instead of trusting in Jesus' finished work?
4. What does it mean for you personally that Jesus is not dead, but alive today?
5. Do you see Jesus clearly for who He is? What keeps you from seeing Him rightly?