

“Luke: Week 3- Luke 24:36-53”

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 - MICHAEL BOWERS



Summary - “Jesus: The Reason we Rejoice!”

On Easter Sunday, we entered Luke 24 to examine this question: How has the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ affected you personally? The following Sunday we continued through Luke 24:13-35, and we read where Jesus joined two disciples on the road to Emmaus. On this journey, Jesus listened to these men describe the events leading up to the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, and their disappointment that they believed Jesus would be a political king. We read how Jesus reminded and taught them from the scriptures, which at the time would have been the Old Testament, not the New. Jesus teaches the travelers about himself, without them recognizing it was Jesus. Jesus taught them, reminded them, and opened their hearts, leaving their hearts burning for the word of God and the truth of Jesus. The beauty of our passage from last Sunday connects directly with our conclusion of this chapter today: God, allow your word to set our souls on fire and our feet and hands to action. We pick up this week as these two men head back to Jerusalem and share what had just happened with the eleven other disciples. As they are sharing about these things Jesus all of a sudden appears to them all. In this passage, the followers of Jesus move from being frightened in vs. 37, thinking they had seen a ghost, to Jesus standing in front of them, convincing them he is there in the flesh of a resurrected body, but his scars remained. They move from frightened followers to joy-filled worshippers, ready to share the truth of Jesus with the world. They are going to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take this message to the region and people of the day, and they would do so with great passion and authority, but also with a spirit of worship, joy, and mission. They could now trust the promises and words of Jesus, now more than ever, because of the resurrection and the proof He had provided. And we have this proof today in front of our eyes in His word. We too are challenged to carry this mission forward with passion as someone once did for each of us.

Scripture - Luke 24:36-53 - “The Reason we Rejoice!”

*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.” 50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.*

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

Isaiah 43; Matthew 28; Mark 16; [Luke 24:36-53](#); John 20-21; Acts 1:8, Acts 2; Romans 10:5-17

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

How has the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ affected you personally? Continue to ask and wrestle with this question. Not only in salvation, but how is it affecting you personally in your day to day living?

God, allow your word to set our souls on fire and our feet and hands to action.

Jesus taught them, reminded them, and opened their hearts, leaving their hearts burning for the word of God and the truth of Jesus.

The two men from Emmaus had returned to Jerusalem and now they are explaining to the other disciples, who had yet to see Jesus, their account and the amazement that Jesus had been with them, but then disappeared.

"THEY" are believed based on what happens in the following verses, the disciples of Jesus. Most likely, they have holed up in a home for safety. Unsure if they would be targeted next as a part of the Jesus movement. (vs. 36)

Two things that are amazing as we enter this scene...

1. First, it tells us that "Jesus himself stood among them." (vs. 36; see also John 20:19)
2. Second is that He says, "Peace to you." This phrase means to relax.

They are gathering information from the women who went to the tomb, the apostles who did the same, the two men from Emmaus, and they don't know what to believe - the door is locked and Jesus says, "PEACE to you." Jesus was possibly getting them accustomed to the fact that even when he was not visible to the eyes of the earthly body, He was still present & available!

Troubles and Doubts (vs. 37-45).

- Proof #1 - Jesus was honest and standing before them in a human body was the invitation to examine his wounds from the cross. This would not only prove Jesus was alive, but it was this body that was standing, talking, and telling them, "have peace," that had been crucified and placed into the tomb. (vs. 38-41)
- Proof #2 - The reality is that Jesus had not eaten in 72 hours and was hungry. This is a real man in front of them. This is true presence. (vs. 42-43)
- Proof #3 - He does precisely the same thing with these disciples that He had done in his conversation with the two men on the road (vs. 27), he taught them beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, and interpreted the scriptures for them. (vs. 44-45)

Key Thoughts

We don't know how Jesus walked through these words with a room of eager listeners, trying to make sense of it all. But one author summarized the scriptures from which Jesus would have brought to light:

- I'm the Seed of a woman in Genesis;
- I'm the Passover Lamb of Exodus;
- I'm the Anointed High Priest of Leviticus;
- I'm the Brazen Serpent of Numbers;
- I'm the Great Rock of Deuteronomy;
- I'm the Captain of the Lord's Hosts of Joshua;
- I'm the Messenger of the Lord of Judges;
- I'm the Kinsmen Redeemer of Ruth;
- I'm the Great Judge in 1 Samuel.
- I'm the Seed of David of 2 Samuel;
- I'm the Lord God of Israel of 1 Kings;
- I'm the God of the Cherubim of 2 Kings;
- I'm the God of our salvation in 1 Chronicles;
- I'm the God of our fathers of 2 Chronicles;
- I'm the Lord of Heaven & Earth of Ezra;
- I'm the Covenant-keeping God of Neh;
- I'm the God of Providence in Esther.;
- I'm the Returning Redeemer of Job.;
- I'm the Good Shepherd of the Ps;
- I'm the Wisdom of God in the Proverbs;
- I'm the One above the Sun of Ecclesiastes;
- I'm the Altogether Lovely of SoS;
- I'm the Virgin-born Immanuel of Is;
- I'm the Branch of Righteousness of Jer;
- I'm the Compassionate One of Lamentations;
- I'm the Lord Is There of Ezekiel;
- I'm the Stone Cut w/o Hands of Daniel;
- I'm the King of the Rescue in Hosea;
- I'm the God of the Battle of Joel;
- I'm the Plumblineline of Amos;
- I'm the Destroyer of the Proud of Obadiah
- I'm the Risen Prophet of Jonah;
- I'm the Bethlehem-born of Micah;
- I'm the Bringer of Good Tidings of Nahum;
- I'm the Anointed One of Habbakkuk;
- I'm the King of Israel of Zephaniah;
- I'm the Desire of All Nations of Hagai;
- I'm the Branch of Zechariah;
- I'm The Sun of Righteousness of Malachi.

(Adapted from Willmington's Book of Bible Lists.)



Key Thoughts

Some people discount studying the Old Testament, but Jesus didn't. In fact, it was the 3rd proof of who was standing before these men and women, who moments before were contemplating their future of fear, now being led to a future of mission/purpose.

- PROOF #4 - Jesus is pointing to himself: he suffered in front of these people, he rose from the dead, and this proof had a distinct purpose that Jesus would present to them.

Now that the Jesus had come, God in flesh, living a perfect life, crucified, buried, raised, offers proof to the disciples, he is making sure they know, the news of a conquering risen savior is not reserved for the 12 in the upper room, or the crew that existed in the locked room we are in during this moment of Luke 24. No, the proof now turns to purpose.

Purpose & Mission: "Repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." The mission of this moment is still our mission today: Proclaim the good news of Jesus to all nations. (vs. 46-49). Here at Rich Fork we say it like this, "Shaping our community by sharing the grace of Jesus Christ."

This message of eternal life through the forgiveness of sins, as we turn from our sins, was proclaimed and preached to us through our family, from their previous generations, neighbors, pastors, teachers, and could be traced all the way back to this very moment in this locked room with the disciples in Jerusalem. Multiplication is a fantastic principle!

Jesus told the disciples that the message of repentance and forgiveness should be shared in all nations. And this message could spread rapidly all over the world (see also Matthew 28:18-20). We are not asking you to lead 50,000 people to Jesus alone, but to trust in gospel multiplication. If you led one person to Jesus each year, and that person did the same, just one each per year, then in 40 years, the entire world, every nation, tribe, and tongue would hear the message Jesus spoke to the disciples of repentance and forgiveness.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us the reason, the command, and the authority to preach the news of repentance and forgiveness because of a risen savior, Jesus Christ. Going to the nations sounds intimidating, and not everyone is going to be able to travel to remote locations of the world, but what if you begin praying:

- God give me the burden to lead one student in a class this year to Jesus.
- God give me the burden to lead one athlete on my team to Jesus this year.
- God give me the burden to lead one patient to Jesus this year.
- God give me the burden to lead one of my kids to Jesus this year.
- God give me the burden to lead one classmate to Jesus this year.
- God give me the burden to lead one family member to Jesus this year.
- God give me the burden to lead one _____ to Jesus this year.

Jesus proclaims us to be witnesses, and that we would be given the power and authority to do so, which would come upon the early church in Acts 2. Those who repent and come to Christ receive the power of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 48-49; see also Acts 1:8 and Acts 2)



Key Thoughts

In this passage, the followers of Jesus move from being frightened in vs. 37, thinking they had seen a ghost, to Jesus standing in front of them, convincing them he is there in the flesh of a resurrected body, but his scars remained. They move from frightened followers to joy-filled worshippers, ready to share the truth of Jesus with the world. Then, days later, Jesus is carried up into heaven! (vs. 50-53)

How did they have the confidence to worship when their messiah ascended to heaven? Because of the resurrection, they could worship with great joy and live out their calling in obedience and with a distinct mission.

They moved from being terrified, frightened (37), and did not believe (41), to worshipping with great joy, even following their Messiah ascending to heaven (52). Why the transformation? Because it all added up! The teaching, the prophecies, the miracles, the death, the burial, and the resurrection. From this point forward, the followers of Christ anchored their faith in the resurrection of Jesus. This would bring them joy in hardship, worship in dire circumstances, and peace in persecution.

Reflect & Respond

The resurrection changes everything, but has it changed you for eternity, and for every day? Continue to ask and wrestle with this question. Not only in salvation, but how is it affecting you personally in your day to day living?

For us today, it leads us to ask the following questions:

- Do you live in peace or fear? (vs. 36-39). Is there any place where you still doubt Christ in your heart?
- Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? (vs. 40-43) What hope must the disciples have had in this very moment watching Jesus eat? What hope does it give you?
- Does the resurrection of Jesus empower you to share Christ, or do you remain silent? (vs. 44-49) How are you living out your witness in the places where you live, work, and play? If not, what is preventing you from carrying forth the mission with joy, passion, and boldness?
- Are you filled with worship, joy, and celebration? (vs. 50-53). How are you continually worshipping, thanking, praising, and celebrating the Lord in your life?

God, give me the burden to lead _____ to Jesus this year. Who are you praying for? Who is your "one"? Who is God leading you to be a witness to regarding the truth and grace of the Gospel? How will you go about doing this? What do you fear regarding this? How can we as a group be praying for you in this journey?