

Remember His Word (God's Not Dead)

The Gospel According to Luke

M. 9

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction

Paul penned these essential words for the believer to the church at Colosse, recorded in Colossians 3:16.

Bible

(16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 - KJV

Introduction

The word of Christ represents a vital resource for the believer. It possesses the power to save and transform. We see this recorded in the resurrection account of Luke's Gospel, chapter 24.

As we did in our Sunrise Service, let's read Luke 24:6-8.

Bible

(6) He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, (7) Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. (8) And they remembered his words,
Luke 24:6-8 - KJV

Introduction

The record presents a command to remember His words, a statement of His words, and a commentary that they remembered His words.

Though it seems simple, this represents an essential transition in the text of the chapter and the whole Biblical narrative. Could you think about how the day started? How did these committed women followers come to the tomb? What did they feel when they arrived? Where were the other followers? What were they doing and feeling?

When did that all change? What changed them?

A simple reading of the text proves that it wasn't what they saw with their own eyes - an empty tomb and two angels declaring the resurrection - that changed them. They were changed when "they remembered his words."

Do you need that this Easter Sunday?

You've come with your Sunday best and maybe even new, but it may not reflect what your life has been or is. Your life may be spiraling out of control, experiencing brokenness or frustration, and struggling with grief or anxiety.

From Luke 24:1-12, note three changes when they remembered His words.

1. Remembering the words of Jesus changed confusion into clarity (v. 4)

Bible

(4) And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luke 24:4 - KJV

Explanation

As they came to the tomb early that morning, they discussed how they would get into the tomb because of the stone. They must have been shocked when they realized the stone had already been rolled away. They approached and entered the tomb, but there was no body to be found. Their shock melts in confusion.

Verse 4 states, "They were much perplexed." The word means to be thoroughly nonplussed. I had to look up what nonplussed means. It means surprised and confused to the point of uncertainty about how to react. Why is the stone rolled away from the tomb's opening? Where is

Jesus's body? Who did this? What's going on here?

Can you imagine all of the questions they had without answers?

Application

Sound familiar?

Have you been in situations or gone through experiences that left you nonplussed? You see what's going on. You know the hurt that you're feeling. You know the pain you've endured. But you don't know where God is or what He's doing. You're nonplussed. The situation and experience have left you shocked, confused, and uncertain about what is happening or what you should do now.

You may need the same thing those committed women followers needed on Resurrection Day:

Remember His words.

Explanation

At least six New Testament texts reveal that Jesus taught them these things would happen to Him. He'd be betrayed, arrested, beaten, crucified, and rise again. This was His purpose. It was God's plan. They didn't see, understand, or accept it. So, when the day came, the stone was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. Rather than clarity, they experienced confusion. Then, when they remembered His words, clarity replaced the confusion. They saw it then. They understood it then.

You see, they knew now that Jesus was alive. The stone rolled away, and the empty tomb and

the angels showed them what they should have known. He's not dead; He's alive.

Application

You may be confused by situations and life experiences, but this Resurrection Day, remember His words. God's not dead. Jesus isn't dead. He's alive. That situation or experience that confuses you doesn't need to. You can have clarity today when you remember His words. He's not dead; if He's not dead, then He's not detached. He's working out His plan and purpose in your life. So, even if the situations and experiences produce confusion, find clarity by remembering His word.

2. Remembering the words of Jesus changed consternation to cheer (v. 5)

Bible

(5) And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Luke 24:5 - KJV

Explanation

After the men in shining garments, who were angels, spoke to them, they dropped to their knees in fear. "Afraid" means in fear, alarmed.

Realistically, all of Jesus's followers were fearful at the time. The events they witnessed over the days prior were way outside of their expectations. Isn't it often true that events outside of expectation can produce fear? The Jewish religious leaders killed their Master. What would happen now? What would happen to them? They gave up everything to follow Jesus. Then He was gone. They were afraid.

Application

Have you ever had situations not go according to expectations and ended up afraid? When your health fails, you lose your job rather than get a raise. Your relationship doesn't pan out the way that you hoped and dreamed. What then?

Illustration

This wasn't the first time a group of Jesus's followers was afraid. Mark 6 records an account of Jesus's disciples rowing across the Sea of Galilee when a significant storm blew up. They feared. Then, when Jesus came walking on water, and they didn't realize it was Him, they feared more. Then, Jesus spoke to them and said...

Bible

*(50) For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.***

Mark 6:50 - KJV

Explanation

"Be of good cheer" translates one word in the original, meaning to take courage. Throughout the New Testament, the original word translates to "cheer," like in Mark 6:50 or "comfort." Jesus emphasized it further by exhorting, "Be not afraid."

Application

Through the ups and downs of life, the storms of life, the unmet expectations of life, the broken dreams of life...how can we do this? How can we experience cheer, courage, and comfort rather than fear, discouragement, and frustration? The key is between "be of good cheer" and "be not afraid." What came in the middle? **"It is I!"**

My friend, right in the middle of your fear, right in the middle of your pain, right in the middle of your discouragement, right in the middle of your frustration, right in the middle of your grief, remember the words of Jesus. Lift up your eyes and look to the hills from whence your help comes. Declare in the middle of all that, "My help comes from the Lord"!

You see, if the Lord is not there, He's not in the tomb but is risen, then God is not dead, which means He is not detached, He is not diminished, He is not disconnected. He is here! That changes everything! You don't have a dead Savior—a dead leader. You have a living, active, involved, present Savior. He's with you in pain. He's with you in the discouragement. He's with you through broken dreams and expectations. Remember His words.

Do you remember what happened next?

Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb. She was still weeping when a man, presumed to be the gardener, came up. They began a conversation, and she asked the man to tell her where whoever had stolen the body of her Lord had taken it. Then, the man spoke one word, her name. Then and there, Mary recognized that He was her Savior. Her weeping and grief turned to wonder and joy as she realized He was there.

The other women went to tell Jesus's other followers what they had seen, but they were still unsure. So, Jesus suddenly appeared to them, and their uncertainty turned to worship as they recognized their Savior. His presence made all the difference.

You may say, "If only I had that experience! If only I could see Him and know He is here."

You have something far better. You need to remember His word. For He declared...

Bible

*(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.*

Matthew 28:20 - KJV

*(5) Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** (6) **So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper,** and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

Hebrews 13:5-6 - KJV

Application

The resurrection of Jesus confirms all His promises. When you begin to grow weary, frustrated, discouraged, and disillusioned by all the problems and pressures of life, remember His words! Take courage, and be comforted. He's with you!

3. Remembering the words of Jesus changed cynicism into confidence (v. 11)

Explanation

Those pesky disciples took a little more convincing. The eleven thought the women returning from the tomb had lost it.

Bible

(11) And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

Luke 24:11 - KJV

Explanation

At this point, they are pretty cynical and skeptical. Even after the two returned from Emmaus and Jesus appeared to Simon individually, the rest still hesitated to believe until Jesus showed up to all of them. When He did, He rebuked them for their unbelief. With all the testimony of the witnesses already given, they should have believed.

It wasn't until a week later that one of the disciples saw Jesus. We call him doubting Thomas. He represents all people who struggle to believe or struggle with doubt. He declared he would only believe once he saw Jesus for himself. When Jesus showed up and confronted him directly, Thomas believed. Then, Jesus proclaimed a blessing not on those who would see and believe but on those who would not see yet believe.

How could someone not see and yet believe?

John 17:20 was read earlier in our Sunrise Service. It says...

Bible

(20) Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

John 17:20 - KJV

Explanation

We believe through the word, the word of the followers who witnessed His life, death, and resurrection. The word He, through the Holy Spirit, put in their mouths and hearts. It's His word! From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. It's His word and about Him. The entire Bible tells one narrative about a fallen, broken humanity who needs a Savior. God, because He loves the humans He made, provided that Savior through the sacrifice of His one and only Son. Jesus came, lived, died, and rose again to save us.

Application

You may have never believed it. Listen to and believe His word today.

You may be a believer who struggles with doubt. You may be here this Easter Sunday filled with doubts and fears. Remember and believe His word.

Conclusion

This Easter Sunday, let's determine to remember His word. Remembering His word brings clarity to our confusion, cheer to our consternation, and confidence to our cynicism.

Bible

(16) ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.***

Colossians 3:16 - KJV