

Luke 24

As we close the book of Luke this morning...we are going to open 6 others. As we open each of these books, I hope it will boost our faith, stir our hearts, and move us to respond in tangible ways to what we have learned in these 24 chapters of Luke's Gospel.

As we close Luke's book, let us open 6 others.

I. The Open Tomb v1-12

24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that 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, 9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. 11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

1. Jesus died.

a. There is no evidence that anyone ever survived a roman crucifixion

b. *The remarkable circumstance of wrapping up the dead body in spices, by Joseph and Nicodemus, according to the manner of the Jews in burying, is full proof that Jesus was dead, and known to be dead. Had their indeed been any remains of life in him, when taken down from the cross, the pungent nature of the myrrh and aloes, their strong smell, their bitterness, their being wrapped around his body in linens with a roller, and over his head and face with a napkin, as was the custom of the Jews to bury, must have entirely extinguished them.* Samuel Chandler

2. We have preserved a creed of the earliest Christian church dated by some scholars within months of the death of Jesus that was written by eyewitnesses.

a. The apostle Paul gives us a recitation of that creed in 1 Corinthians 15

b. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*

3. Empty Tomb.

a. The enemies of Christ admitted it was empty and came up with a story “the Disciples stole the body”

b. *I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the grave.* Thomas Arnold, Oxford University

c. *When therefore the disciples began to preach the resurrection in Jerusalem and people responded, and when religious authorities stood helplessly by, the tomb must have been empty. The simple fact that the Christian fellowship, founded on belief in Jesus's resurrection, came into existence and flourished in the very city where he was executed and buried is powerful evidence for the historicity of the empty tomb.* William Lane Craig

4. Eyewitnesses.

a. Most of what we know of ancient history comes from 1 or 2 eyewitnesses.

b. We have at least 9 ancient sources inside and outside of the NT confirming that the disciples encountered the risen Christ... which leads to the next portion of our text.

c. We meet some of the eyewitnesses who are still unable to see!

II. Open Scriptures

13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. 17 And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” 19 And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also 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 exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” 25 And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The Old Testament's primary purpose is not to give you all the rules, laws, feasts, and ceremonies that God requires of us to be holy. The OT's primary purpose is to point us to Christ.

1. It does just that and Jesus unfolds it for these disciples
2. He went from Moses through all the prophets to explain to them how the OT Scriptures speak of Him.
3. Some scholars say more than 300 prophecies exist concerning Christ in the OT. I have pulled together a summary of the major ones for you.
4. Put on your seatbelt and listen fast.

The Law and Prophets prophesy that Jesus would be born of the seed of the woman, born of a virgin, the son of God, the seed of Abraham, the son of Isaac, the son of Jacob, of the tribe of Judah, from the line of Jesse, of the house of David. He would be born at Bethlehem, presented with gifts, and would escape Herod's execution of all the male children in Bethlehem. They tell of his pre-existence, that he would be called Lord, that he would be called Emmanuel, that he would be a prophet, a priest, a judge, a king, and that he would have a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. They tell of his zeal for God, that he would be preceded by a messenger, that his ministry would begin in Galilee, that he would have a ministry of miracles, be a teacher of parables, that he would enter the temple, that he would enter Jerusalem on a donkey, that he would be a stone of stumbling to the Jews, and a light to the Gentiles. We learn that he would be betrayed by a friend, sold for 30 pieces of silver, that that money would be thrown into God's house and it would be used to buy Potters Field, that he would be forsaken by his disciples, accused by false witnesses, silent before his accusers, wounded and bruised, smitten and spit upon, mocked, that he would fall under the weight of the cross, that his hands and feet would be pierced, that he would be crucified with thieves, that he would be rejected

by his own people, and yet make intercession for his persecutors. He would be hated without a cause, his friends would stand far off, people would shake their heads at him, he would be stared at, his garments would be parted and lots cast for them, he would suffer thirst, gall and vinegar would be offered to him, he would be forsaken by God, yet would commit himself to God. His bones would not be broken, yet he would be heartbroken. Darkness would cover the land...His side would be pierced....He would die. He would be buried in a rich man's tomb....and would rise from the grave, ascend into heaven, and be seated at the right hand of God.

1. All of that and more is in the Old Testament and was given centuries before Jesus came!

2. Peter Stoner in his book, *Science Speaks* wrote, "*We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power: that is 1 in 100 quadrillion (a 1 followed by 17 zeros). In order to help us comprehend this staggering possibility, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that we take 10 to the 17th power of silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing just 8 prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.*"

- a. What are the chances that one man would fulfill a handful of prophecies? Yet Jesus fulfilled them all.
- b. The entire gospel is about God accomplishing his plan and humans seeing him do it.

3. 2 Peter 1:16-21 *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

III. Open Eyes

28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. 29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. 30 When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" 33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

1. In the breaking of bread they recognized Jesus.
2. The Gospel is remembered, proclaimed, and witnessed as we take the Lord's supper!

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

3. We might underestimate its power and importance.

It is in the breaking of bread that their eyes were opened...and that is what the lost need today! To have their eyes opened to the truth.

Communion/Conclusion