

The Resurrection Changes Everything

Luke 24

I wrote an article: "It's Sunday Again--The Resurrection Makes All the Difference." This sermon is an expansion of the article, a more detailed study of Luke 24.

Indeed, the resurrection changes everything. Paul preached the resurrection as evidence of Jesus' identity as the Messiah and Son of God. The evidence for the resurrection is indisputable: the execution which was excruciating, the empty tomb, early accounts of the resurrection, eyewitnesses of the resurrection, the example of the early disciples.

Luke 24 opens the door, brings together those dynamics — the death reported, unlikely witnesses, an early account of the resurrection, disbelief from the disciples.

"We were hoping..." (24:21) The resurrection is HOPE; it exceeds our hopes and our hopelessness. The hope of the resurrection is for every week of the year—not just Easter! Do not overlook the first unlikely witnesses (24:22).

"Their eyes were opened..." (24:31) The resurrection is FAITH; John 20 pronounces a blessing on those who believe even though they have not seen. Faith that shows up only on Easter hardly qualifies as faith.

"Did not our hearts burn..." (24:32) The resurrection is CERTAINTY, convincing, convicting, motivation. We are never the same when we clearly grasp the power of resurrection—the power of Jesus' resurrection also at work in our own lives. The same power is at work in us! Burning hearts lead us to faithfulness.

"He opened their understanding..." (24:45) The resurrection is for TELLING. The Great Commission grows out of and understanding of the resurrection, Luke 24:44-47. The resurrection is a primary power in sharing the Good News.

The power of the resurrection is also declared in John 20. Thomas seeks proof, he wants evidence. He wants indisputable evidence. His desire to see and touch reflects the execution, the empty tomb, his disbelief of the words of his fellow-apostles (early accounts). He becomes an eyewitness, and church history and tradition record his commitment to evangelizing the world, in India if tradition is correct.