

“He Has Risen”

Introduction – Luke 24:1-12

Today we are celebrating an historic event that took place nearly 2000 years ago! The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Let’s look at the context.

I. THE SEEMING DEFEAT OF THE CROSS (VERSES 1-3)

Luke 24:1-3 (NIV)

1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Just a week earlier Jesus had entered Jerusalem on what we celebrate as Palm Sunday! The symbolism of Jesus riding on a donkey colt is prophetically very significant! We talked about that last week! (refer to humility of coming as the sacrifice for sin)

Luke 19:37-40 (NIV)

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: **38** “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” **40** “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

The people of Israel were looking for the Messiah to come and deliver them from their oppressors who at this time were the Romans! They were hoping they were going to see Jesus stand up against Rome and overthrow the Romans! But what did Jesus do?

Luke 19:45-48 (NIV)

45 Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. **46** “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ ” **47** Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. **48** Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Jesus confronted the religious leaders who declared that they represented Yahweh, Jehovah and that Jesus was an imposter –

Listen to Jesus confronting this:

Luke 20:17-19 (NIV)

17 Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ’ ? **18** Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” **19** The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

This whole time of Jesus’ ministry they plotted and planned to get rid of this Jesus guy whom they believed to be an imposter! They didn’t even realize the prophecies they were fulfilling!

Not even the disciples understood what Jesus had plainly told them:

Luke 24:7 (NIV)

7 ‘THE SON OF MAN MUST BE DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF SINFUL MEN, BE CRUCIFIED AND ON THE THIRD DAY BE RAISED AGAIN.’ ”

At Jesus’ arrest look at the reactions:

Luke 22:47-53 (NIV)

47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, **48** but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” **49** When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” **50** And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. **51** But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. **52** Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? **53** Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Matthew 26:50-56 (NIV)

50 Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. **51** With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **52** “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. **53** Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” **55** At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. **56** But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

So they were crushed, disappointed, given up as failures, denied they even knew Him! They truly didn’t believe that what Jesus had told them was going to take place!

II. THE AMAZING FULFILLMENT (VERSES 4-8)

Luke 24:4-8 (NIV)

4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. **5** In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? **6** He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: **7** ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” **8** Then they remembered his words.

Yes, He has risen! Why do you look for the living among the dead? Then they remembered His words!

All these stories that have circulated through all the years that this made-up story, they were delusional, nutcases, they stole the body and cooked up this resurrection deception! The fact is they were eyewitnesses. They saw Him alive and nearly beaten to death! Crucified, speared and definitely dead!

What appeared to be weakness, Jesus dying on the cross was actually Jesus’ greatest triumph over sin, death and hell itself!

Just listen to these passages describing this victory:

I Corinthians 2:6-8 (NIV)

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7** No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

II Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)

4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God’s power we will live with him to serve you.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

I Peter 3:18-22 (NIV)

18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, **19** through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison **20** who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, **21** and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

III. EVENT THE DISCIPLES INITIALLY DIDN'T BELIEVE (VERSES 9-12)

Luke 24:9-12 (NIV)

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. **10** It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. **12** Peter, however, got up and ran to the

tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

LISTEN TO THE INTERACTION ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS:

Luke 24:17-32 (NIV)

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?” **19** “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. **20** The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21** but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. **22** In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning **23** but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. **24** Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” **25** He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **28** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. **29** But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32** They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:26-49 (NIV)

26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **28** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. **29** But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32** They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" **33** They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together **34** and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." **35** Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. **36** While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." **40** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41** And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence. **44** He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." **45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what

my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Yes, and even Doubting Thomas had his doubts removed:

John 20:24-31 (NIV)

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” **26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” **28** Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” **30** Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

So we have this message come down to us through all these centuries for us to decide who this Jesus is!

We have these testimonies of the disciples:

1. **PETER** - crucified upside down during the reign of Nero, as he felt unworthy to die like Jesus
2. **JAMES (SON OF ZEBEDEE)** - the first disciple to be martyred, executed by the sword by King Herod Agrippa I in Jerusalem.
3. **JOHN (SON OF ZEBEDEE)** - survived being boiled in oil and even thought to have been poisoned but survived and was exiled to Patmos, and eventually died of natural causes.

4. **ANDREWS** – crucified on an x-shaped cross in Greece.
5. **PHILIP** – martyred by crucifixion or stoning in Hierapolis, Asia Minor
6. **BARTHOLOMEW (NATHANIEL)** – skinned alive then beheaded in Armenia.
7. **THOMAS** – impaled by spears in India
8. **MATTHEW** – killed by the sword in Ethiopia
9. **JAMES (DON OF ALPHAEUS)** – stoned and clubbed to death
10. **SIMON THE ZEALOT** – sawed in half in Persia
11. **JUDE (THADDEUS)** – killed with arrows or an axe in Persia.
12. **MATTHIAS (chosen to replace Judas)** – stoned and then beheaded.
13. **JUDAS ISCARIOT** – died by suicide, hanging himself after betraying Jesus.

So do you think they knowingly made up this story of Jesus' resurrection for something they would have known to be a lie?

I BELIEVE THEIR TESTIMONY! I BELIEVE JESUS!

Just listen to Jesus' warnings to them and to us:

John 15:18-20 (NIV)

18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

Conclusion

So I take to heart this message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Peter preached in His first sermon:

Acts 2:29-41 (NIV)

29 “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. **32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. **33** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. **34** For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand **35** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” **36** “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” **37** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” **40** With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” **41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

I want to have the testimony of Peter when He was confronted on preaching the Gospel:

Acts 4:8-12 (NIV)

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an

act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. ’ **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

So let us take to heart this message today and live it out as never before!

“I KNOW IN WHOM I BELIEVE AND I AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH I HAVE COMMITTED UNTO HIM UNTIL THAT DAY.” (II TIMOTHY 1:12)