GOOD NEWS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Seeing the Story Clearly Through the Resurrection, Luke 24

The Story at a Breaking Point (Luke 23–24)

- Luke brings his Gospel to a moment that appears, from a human perspective, to be a total collapse.
    - The kingdom has been announced, the good news proclaimed, and the King revealed; yet Jesus is crucified (Luke 23).
    - What began with promise appears to end in failure, confusion, and grief.

The resurrection stands at the center of the story, giving meaning to everything before it and making everything after it possible.

The Resurrection Changes How We Understand the *PAST* (Luke 24:1–27)

- Luke presents the resurrection as the interpretive key to Scripture.
    - The women encounter an empty tomb and are reminded of Jesus' own words, connecting resurrection to promise (Luke 24:5–8).
    - The Emmaus disciples reveal deep disappointment, showing how unmet expectations distort understanding (Luke 24:19–21).
- Jesus addresses misunderstanding not by spectacle, but by Scripture.
    - Beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus shows that suffering and resurrection were always part of God's design (Luke 24:25–27).
    - What appeared to be a tragic interruption is revealed as the fulfillment of God's plan.

Scripture is revealed as one unified narrative moving steadily toward Jesus.

The Resurrection Changes How We Experience the *PRESENT* (Luke 24:28–43; 50–53)

- Luke emphasizes that resurrection faith is relational and lived, not abstract.
    - Jesus walks with His followers, opens Scripture, and is recognized in the breaking of bread (Luke 24:30–32).
    - He stands among the disciples, speaks peace, and invites them to see and touch His wounds (Luke 24:36–43).

- The risen Jesus transforms fear into joy.
    - The disciples return to Jerusalem, the place of trauma, with worship and great joy (Luke 24:52–53).

The resurrection reshapes our present reality, grounding faith not in nostalgia for the past but in a living, ongoing relationship with the risen Christ.

The Resurrection Changes Our Vision for the *FUTURE* (Luke 24:45–49)

- Resurrection leads directly to mission.
    - Jesus opens the disciples' minds to understand Scripture and commissions them as witnesses (Luke 24:45–48).
    - Repentance and forgiveness are to be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.

The future is defined by God's victory rather than human strength, making God's mission inevitable because it rests in the reign of the risen Christ.

APPLICATIONS

The resurrection is not just one event among many in the story of Jesus; it is the reality that reshapes everything that came before it and everything that follows after it.

- The resurrection changes how we understand the past.
    - The resurrection shows us that the story of God has always been moving toward Jesus.
- The resurrection should reshape how we experience the present.
    - Christianity is not built on simply remembering what Jesus once did, but is built on trusting and following a living Savior who continues to draw near to his people.
- The resurrection changes our vision for the future.
    - Resurrection people are sent people.

The church exists to proclaim the good news; to bear witness that Jesus is alive, reigning, and extending forgiveness to the world.

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Evening Discussion

Luke concludes his Gospel by showing that the resurrection does more than solve the problem of death; it reshapes understanding, identity, and vocation. Luke 24 takes us from confusion to clarity, from fear to joy, and from private disappointment to public witness. By connecting the empty tomb, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus' commissioning of the disciples, Luke demonstrates that resurrection faith is formed through Scripture, shared life, and active participation in God's redemptive work.

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples were confused and discouraged, expecting redemption but witnessing only death. Jesus meets them where they are, walks alongside them, and opens their understanding of Scripture, revealing that what seemed like an interruption was God's plan all along. After this, He appears to the gathered disciples, shows them His wounds, and speaks peace into their fear. The resurrection reframes suffering, transforms fear into joy, and equips the disciples to bear witness to all they have seen. The resurrection should redirect our gaze outward. Jesus commissions his followers to proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all nations. Encountering the risen Christ means being sent into the world as witnesses to his life, death, and resurrection.

The following questions are intended to help us reflect on how the resurrection reshapes the way we read Scripture, live in the present, and imagine the future.

Discussion Questions

The Emmaus disciples knew the Scriptures but misunderstood God's plan. What expectations can distort our reading of Scripture today?

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Luke shows that Jesus interprets Scripture in light of His suffering and resurrection. How should this shape the way we read the Old Testament?

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The disciples move from fear to joy after encountering the risen Jesus. What fears does the resurrection directly confront in our lives?

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Luke connects resurrection faith to witness and mission. What does it look like for the church to live outward rather than inward?

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If the resurrection truly changes everything, past, present, and future, what areas of life are hardest to surrender to that reality?

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