



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 117 "The Real Deal"
By Pastor Jody May

Luke 24:33-43 ESV

The Resurrection

24 ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved **for joy and were marveling**, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

Review:

Some of you like to watch some scary stuff. You know the monster stuff doesn't scare me half as much as the ghost stories. Like that show ghost hunters on tv. People go and spend the night to investigate paranormal activities, that's just crazy! You know why? You know you're going to watch that stupid show and wake up in the wee hours of the morning scared to death thinking you heard a noise in your room! About the closest I will come to a ghost movie is when Ghostbusters releases its' sequel this summer!

Ghost stories have been scaring the snot out of people for thousands of years, it's what was told around the campfire when you were bored. You didn't have late night tv with the horror movies on, so you told these types of stories where people would have to try and hold their bladders till morning because they weren't going outside or in the woods till first light!



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Because of these beliefs, and *btw that was an actual accepted belief by most people in Jesus' day*, there was an early church heresy that threatened to change the Doctrine of Christ, to remove some of the effectiveness of His work here on earth. **This teaching was called [Docetism](#)**; the belief that Jesus didn't actually have a body, He was in phantom form, like an angel that could appear to people but were invisible to others because there was no substance to them.

Docetic Theology - It **rejects the possibility** that Jesus experienced the breadth of human existence, including pain, eating, drinking, and hunger. More significantly, docetic theology undermines the historic value of Jesus' virgin birth, crucifixion, bodily resurrection, and His assumption of sin in the flesh (compare [Rom 8:3](#)).¹

Docetism had begun in the early days of the church and was trying to be mixed into some church beliefs ([1,2, & 3 John](#)) as we believe Paul was addressing in the book of Colossians:

Col. 2:8-9 ESV

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Luke, remember, being Paul's bestie, is helping in his eyewitness accounts to debunk for the early church this heresy. He wants to show by evidence that Jesus was very real, He had a body, and the body itself was resurrected from the grave, and that means everything to us! The **body was essential to Jesus' humanity**, He called Himself the ***Son of Man***, it was His favorite title for Himself. To remove this from Jesus was to remove His work He did for us as Adam's replacement. **If Jesus is not fully human, then He cannot save us fully...**

Today we are looking at the **reaction of the disciples to Jesus's Physical/Bodily Resurrection**, recorded by Dr. Luke. In looking at these responses I want you to

¹ Brown, D. (2016). [Docetism](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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not only believe in the resurrected Jesus but believe that He was alive in a redeemed human body, that points to something **very exciting for you and me.**

1. The Reaction to the Resurrection can first seem CONFUSING.

24 ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "**Peace to you!**" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a **spirit**.

The two disciples that had walked with Jesus had just booked it all the way from Emmaus that night, that's 7 miles! As ***Mike had pointed out last week*** when God **begins to show you how real He is**, when He starts explaining things about the scripture, by the HS, it causes in us the desire to get up and **go tell someone**, to **evangelize!** When they reach that upper room where everyone was hiding, before they can even relate anything about their experience, they are blasted with excitement, because we discover that not only had the girls seen the Messiah but Peter as well ([1 Cor. 15:5](#))! We don't know what was said to Peter, Luke didn't say and neither did the other Gospels, but he saw Him!

Can you imagine being in that room, everyone is trying to talk over everyone else, they are trying to compare experiences, they aren't doubting that they didn't see something, I'll explain why in a moment, but there must have been such a sense of trepidation in that room that it was palpable. **(It would like to be in a room with a bunch of Star Wars fans that were talking about the Mandalorian season finale and that they saw Luke)**. Then right in the middle of all that, in the middle of the talking and excitement, in the midst of them someone stands up, and declares loudly – "***Peace to you!***" And the scripture says they all freaked out; they panicked because of their fear!

V. 37 They were startled and frightened, because they **thought they saw a Spirit/Ghost (*pneuma*)!** Unlike today in our secularized post Darwinian culture



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people back then not only believed in heaven, but they believed that a Spirit could visit a person from the grave. We know that the disciples **have actually seen this before!**

Luke 9:28–32 ESV

The Transfiguration

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake **they saw** his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Paul also testifies to the fact that the Pharisees believed this too, meaning it was what the Judaizers believed in as well.

Acts 23:8 (ESV)

⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

Not only had they seen it with their own eyes, not only did their religious traditions teach this, but there was **evidence in front of them** that pointed to the fact that **Jesus could not be real:**

John 20:19–20 ESV

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, **the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood among them...

The doors were locked to keep people out, and here was this man, a stranger, among them! All of this points to the disciples, that upon seeing the resurrected Christ, believed they were seeing a ghost, they still were not believing He was raised



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from the dead in bodily form. We are also given a hint as to what they truly believed by what Luke records in v.41:

⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them,

We have a saying that mirrors this experience in our day and age, **"It is just too good to be true!"**. Jesus' bodily resurrection was confusing, it was frightening, startling, it couldn't register with the disciples when they first saw Him, they weren't expecting it, all because **it was too good to be true! [WHY?]** The original plan for the disciples was to keep Him alive so He could erect His physical throne for Israel in Jerusalem bringing a physical occupation to an end. **Jesus' plan was to die to defeat death, so that His Universal reign would never know an ending!** Their finite minds couldn't grasp yet what was happening!

I find that this is no different than what we experience today. **The Lord is ALWAYS up to bigger things than what we realize.** We like to put limitations and stipulations as to how and why Jesus would work in our lives and then we quantify His activity, His reality, His weight/glory, by our subjective understanding if and when He does what we want Him to do. Jesus if you are real, you will give me...

All the while we ignore the fact that Jesus didn't just come to die so we can have the good life now, **He came to die so we can live with Him forever!** Everything we encounter now good and bad, is given so that we may be sanctified, tested, tried, disciplined, purified, substantiated, so that we may get to that glorious destination of being glorified with Christ.

Romans 8:17 ESV

and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

If this all seems a little bit confusing to you that's ok, because that's better than being blind to your need for Him, or mad because you didn't get what you wanted from Him. Confusion usually dawns first in the minds of those that are being converted because they live in a state of, **"It's just too good to be true"** for a while. Have you ever been in that frame of mind? If not, then you know what you need



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to pray about this week! And in praying about it, point two tells you what to pray for:

2. Jesus uses His Resurrection to bring CLARITY.

³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Jesus wants to move His disciples beyond the shock and awe and wants to bring them to a point of **clarity**; understanding, acceptance of what has happened. After calming them down He shows them His hands and feet. He is showing the physical wounds, the scars, that He would have endured from the crucifixion. *BTW it never said in any of the gospels, during the account of the crucifixion, that Jesus was nailed to the cross.* We know this from John's account what actually happened to Jesus on the cross, and Christ used these physical signs to prove His body was indeed corporeal, having flesh. Look at John's account 8 days later after this event at what we are seeing here in the upper room.

John 20: 26-29 ESV

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Thomas don't just look, touch. Sometimes we look at Thomas and think, "Brother, why are you putting Jesus to the test, why don't you just believe what you see?" While we may take that as sacrilegious Jesus put forward his wounds for all the disciples to see because they were prudent men. Yes, **it was too good to be true**, but it also tells you that the apostles were definitely not going to make up lies about Jesus being alive, because they didn't want to believe it. It was too painful



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to lose Jesus, they didn't want to give into false hopes. So, the fact that Thomas makes this double declaration you are *my Lord and my God* is HUGE! He gives into the assurance by Christ, he accepts the Clarity Jesus is trying to bring Him, he allows Himself to feel Hope again, Thomas receives what He can't believe, he receives the truth that His master was not only the Son of God BUT the Son of Man. **The fullness of deity that dwells in a man; that is Jesus of Nazareth! There is no doubting this now, the Gospel relies on this fact family Jesus fully assumed human form so HE could fully save us from our sins.**

The clarity that Luke is bringing for his audience, according to those that saw Him, is he recorded Jesus' phrase ***Son of Man* 25 times in the book of Luke**, 81 total in all the gospels; it is by far Jesus' favorite title for Himself. All because **God wants us to know He didn't just come to appear to be like He was one of us, NO, He is one of us, and He is the Best one of us!**

Let's bring some Clarity to this: Jesus was God AND man, and because of that He can stand before God the Father and say, *I lived like them, I hurt like them, I was hungry like them, I thirsted like they did, I got sick like they did, I suffered like they did, and I was tempted as they all are, and FATHER, my perfect record while it condemns those who will not accept me, it saves those that accept me by faith. They know they can't live like me, so they accept that I did it for them, so Father I have redeemed us a people, I am their Lord, their King and their God. Please accept what I have done for our people, it is enough, it is finished.* The Father says, **DONE**, you have rescued them, you have redeemed them, and now let's prepare your bride SON for the day of our reunion with our people. **Again, this is all too good to be true!**

The simple Clarity of the Gospel is as a human you could not do enough to save yourself, so Jesus lived as a human, so He could be your representative to God and death.

We have to be careful though, the world is offering us false saviors all the time, John calls them ***anti-christs***. People who claim they can save us if we will give them praise, that means we like their posts on social media. They come in the form of political leaders, social movement leaders, popes and other religious



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fanatics, wise men/women in academia, social philosophies whether it is feminism, nationalism, or BLM, **they all say look at what we are doing for you!** And when it doesn't fulfill you know what you get? **A country full of angry and scared people that are looking for an excuse to blame and condemn someone/anyone for their pain.** But as a Christian you are to reject that, only one thing can save you and He was a man, and it is in Him you are to identify with. If we all would spend time this week watching less media and reading more scripture, **I promise you** that you will be more content at the end of next week than you were this week.

Acts 4:11-12 ESV

¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Jesus' very real body was to offer you very real Salvation, believe in Him and be saved. If you have done so, look at what you get by that gracious gift!

3. The Resurrection promotes in the believer CONFIDENCE.

⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

The last sign that Jesus gives is look, just give me something to eat! It is the thing that all humans love to do, it is the thing we all do everyday, it is the most common of willful actions that a human being must do, and Jesus uses it to associate even further with us.

In conclusion, as I was studying MacArthur's notes this week, there are three things we can walk away from that were very important for God to show us.²

- He had to conquer both the physical and spiritual life.

² John MacArthur, "The Living Christ Dispels all Doubts", *Grace to You*, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-295/the-living-christ-dispels-all-doubt>, Web, April 17, 2021.



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- He had to show His Father's wrath was satiated with His earthly life, as a man.
- He had to redeem for us our glorified body so we could glorify Him forever as we should.

Philippians 3:21 ESV

(Christ) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Folks you want confidence, you want a prize to shoot for, even if it is too good to be true?

Lately, there has been this sensation of UFOs coming to light, that finally the government is admitting they exist. Like their denial has ever meant they didn't? Seriously, they have always existed, and what is fascinating is that they seem to show flight patterns that defy the law of physics. The only thing we know in our universe that moves outside the laws of physics are things that are non-corporeal, with no physical structure. Einstein went to his grave stumped over the fact that he could never reconcile in math how can **matter appear in what seems two places at once, faster than the speed of light.**

We have seen Jesus, travel from a tomb before the stone was rolled back, to appear before the ladies, to appear before Simon, then appear on the road to Emmaus, then disappear before those disciples eyes, to appearing in a room with a locked door before the disciples. Jesus is **breaking all forms of physical science while in a body** that has become more, it has become perfected.

So here comes our Confidence: First, if Jesus can do this in His body, what can He do through His divine Spirit now that has His focus everywhere at one time? Confidence - nothing happens outside of Jesus' knowing and His ok, which means **everything that happens to us is under His authority all the time.** Wherever you are at, that is exactly where you are to be.

Secondly, want some **motivation for confidence?** Philippians says our body is going to be like His body one day that enables us to no longer be bound by the



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laws of physics so we can live like we were supposed to, to bring God glory as He deserves. Now nature will be in dominion to us once more and all we do will point directly back to God. We were made for this and we are going to get it back!

Friends are you a little **confused** about how this all works today, but yet that just comes from sounding like this is all too good to be true? That's ok it's a good place to be in, you're probably headed in the right direction keep pursuing Him, pursue relationships here in this body, it will be helpful!

Are you lacking **clarity** about who/what can save you today? My friend please understand there is only one thing that can save you and that thing is a person in a body that lived for you so you could live forever with Him.

Lastly, I hope you have gained a little more **confidence** in a world that wants you to be scared about your future. Be confident in Jesus, there is nothing He can't do and there is nothing He has not done for you already. Look forward to that day, where one of our crowns we will receive is a body like His so we can live for Him as we were meant to do.

And let's all help each other and remind each other this week that even though **it's all too good to be true** we need to except every word of it because it is, He loves you that much!



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PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that has accepted the perfect life of the Son and has rewarded Him with a new body, just one of the fruits of Jesus' labor.

Go in the name of the Son, that conquered a human life so He would be able to extend to us the gift He won for us, a glorified body like His.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that helps us to believe it, even though **it sounds too good to be true**, and helps us share this good news with others.