



**Easter 2024**  
**"Believing and Receiving the Resurrection"**  
**By Pastor Jody May 03/31/2024**

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**Luke 24:13-35 ESV**  
**On the Road to Emmaus**

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they



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told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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**[READ THE TEXT]**

**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."  
People - "Thanks be to God."**

**[PRAY]**

**[INTRO]**

We are all here today because of a common unifying factor, we believe in the Resurrection, we have FAITH!

**Hebrews 11:1 ESV**

**11** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

That means we put HOPE into all that we receive from the historical fact of the resurrection, we live out a conviction in that event even though we have not seen it. It means our lives will look different than the majority of the people in this world because **He is Risen!**

**[ILLUSTRATION]**

When my dad was alive and in this world, I lived in such a way that showed how he affected my life. I honored him, I took him to the hospital, I bought his groceries, I cared for his home, I spent time with him, I hugged his neck, I lived in a way that someone could see my actions and knew that someone had captured my loyalties. Now that he is gone, I don't do those things so there is no reason for anyone to believe He lives.

The flip side of this coin is I live now in such a way that shows I have a new loyalty. I live for a man that directs my life, I consult Him on my decisions, I spend money time and effort taking care of those that belong to Him, I talk to Him, I listen to Him, I put down my desires in exchange for His wants. People should be able to look at my life and see from the outside that my actions



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display a love for someone even though you and I cannot see Him. **That by definition, in Hebrews 11:1 is Faith in the Risen Jesus!**

That's what all our lives should look like!

**MP:**

**True Faith is believing the Resurrection is Real  
and it is made evident in how we live.**

Well, you may be thinking PJ, no duh, I get that, that's why I am here, teach me something new! Yeah, but have you ever thought about what the Resurrection really means? (3 facts)

**1 Corinthians 15: 25-26 ESV**

For he must reign (that means He is living, He's resurrected) until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (The Resurrection destroyed death itself).

And in His own words:

**Revelation 1:18 ESV**

I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Fact 1 even though we die, Jesus lives and has the power and desire to bring me back from the dead! Now you should ask how did Jesus get that power over death?

**1 Peter 2:22**

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

**Hebrews 4:15 ESV**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet **without sin.**

Fact 2 even though we sin and so has everyone since Adam, Jesus NEVER DID, therefore, He beat the curse of sin (Gen. 3) and the grave could not hold Him. Then you should ask how did He even get into that position, to defeat



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sin, to have power over death, and to be able to offer me Salvation from an eternal death?

**Isaiah 7:14 ESV**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us).

**Isaiah 9:6 ESV**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (He is an eternal King).

**Isaiah 11:1 ESV**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit (from the line of David).

Those are all verses that show God would send a Divine Messiah, a Savior. Look what Jesus thought about that.

**John 4:25-26 ESV**

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Fact 3 even though the world rejects the concept or need of a Savior, Jesus named it and claimed it, and therefore He believes you should too.

In light of the conquering of death, the fact He had no sin, and the fact that He knows He is God, and therefore all of man's Savior, do we really live like we believe that do we tell people unashamedly about Him, or is it just too hard to believe? Usually when things are too hard to believe, even when you see it, it is because of the repercussions that come with it.

**[ILLUSTRATION]**

This past week we saw a giant merchant marine vessel take out the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore. When we woke up Tuesday morning and saw



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that, we couldn't believe our eyes!?! Because of all the math your mind was trying to do to make that happen. What about the safeguards, the harbor pilots, the boat inspections, the length of time in which this has gone off without a hiccup, the sturdiness of the bridge, none of it made sense! Then one starts to think about cyber-attacks, and was this some sort of terrorist attack, btw the black box stopped recording right in the middle of the crisis? All of that in your mind trying to work itself out as you watch the replay of the bridge falling over and over again. Even though you saw it, it is still hard to believe it happened. But just because you can't explain it doesn't mean it didn't happen, right? The enormity of the event and the number of things that have to line up to make a thing happen **contribute to the complexity of the belief in the event.**

Let me ask you again, do you believe in the Resurrection, do you live as if it happened, has it made it impact on your life, do you believe all the things it has to mean? There is a possibility that you don't and if not, I want to walk us through this story today to show you where you may be having problems and perhaps help you build stronger faith.

Today in our story we have some disciples of Jesus who, just like we would, are having a real hard time believing what they are seeing. As a matter of fact, instead of investigating the empty tomb they just left town. And on the way to Emmaus, they just so happened to come across the subject of their discussion, Jesus Himself! Talk about a sign of Grace from God that He loves you!

To enjoy Jesus' reign as king, to live free from the fear of damnation, to give your life to the ultimate purpose, to bring Him glory, then we need to tackle what keeps us from believing in the miracle of the Resurrection for it is real and it has changed everything. Through these events I want to show us how we need to treat the Bible and the event it points to called, the resurrection. First, we will see the need to let go of our **presuppositions**, next we have the need for Jesus' **interpretations**, and lastly the need to stop with our **self-infatuation**.



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**1. To Believe in the Resurrection you need to let go of your presuppositions.**

Here in the story, we have several things that make it difficult for these disciples to believe what they were seeing/experiencing.

These men thought that the Messiah had limitations, that He would only do so much. They believed that this King, sent by God, would only be active in the political and physical realm to affect a deliverance. He was only going to be about the overturning and assuming control of National Kingship again for Israel. From this rule the Jews would have an actual physical nation reigning over all other nations, thus bringing peace.

<sup>19</sup> And he (Jesus) said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a **prophet mighty in deed and word** before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. This belief points back to a prophecy centuries before Jesus ever came from the mouth of Moses.

**Deuteronomy 18:15 ESV**

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

These men saw Jesus as the guy that would solidify the people like Moses did. Jesus was a man that taught as one with authority ([Mat 7:28-29](#)), He would correct and instruct, He would set the Sanhedrin/temple authorities straight, He would make the pharisees listen to reason, and He would reeducate the scribes. But wait there's more!

<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the **one to redeem Israel**. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

Jesus was to redeem Israel; He was to get it back from Rome and the Herodian dynasty. So, Jesus is not only reclaiming power from the temple authorities, the Sanhedrin, He was going to usurp the governmental control of fake kings



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and foreign invaders. These men thought the reign of the Christ would be a political undertaking resulting in a physical change in their world.

**LP:**

It is hard to believe in the Resurrection if all your presuppositions are about your physical/earthly deliverance.

Friends, often when we come to Jesus, I understand that we all come with needs that have been placed on us by living in a fallen physical world. But we have got to be careful about the preconditionings of our minds since we have been tainted by this world to believe that physical comfort and emotional stability is not only a desire but is right owed to us. Loved ones, Jesus is much more concerned with the welfare of your soul than your political and physical oppressions, as a matter of fact He has most likely allowed much of that to get your attention, so He could really fix what is broken in you, your heart!

In other words, people have a hard time accepting the Resurrection because they want a Jesus that is all about granting them wishes and not about bringing in the Kingdom of God that ultimately on the other side of death corrects all things. We want what we want now, instead of submitting to the plans of God for better tomorrows. **We want to withhold our submission until our wishes are met.** The problem is that no one with that assumption has ever been saved, we don't approach Christ with a list of demands for a physical or political deliverance, we bow a knee to a Lord that demands our submission first. If you don't try to get a handle on those presuppositions, it will be impossible for you to believe your eyes as it was for these guys.

<sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

Instead of having hope these men admitted they were amazed, but they would not accept the reality of the empty tomb! It had to be a mistake, angels wouldn't have visited the women, the body was sealed in the tomb, the disciples couldn't take it, the women must be going crazy. Yeah, that's it, blame



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it on the women guys, then leave town in denial instead of investigating the most miraculous event in history.

Family today, I don't know the condition of your heart, but I do know this, that if you are having a hard time about believing and receiving the resurrection it is not because it did not happen, **it is due to the condition of your heart**. Your heart refuses to believe because you most likely are living with this thought, "If he were real then I would be delivered from \_\_\_\_\_". Friends, Jesus has a plan for all of us, that is bigger than our stomachs for this physical world, that holds more hope than any political figure, and that has eternal repercussions that will long outlive you. Stop hampering your faith with human wish lists and start approaching Jesus as if He has the answers and not you.

**True Faith is believing the Resurrection is Real and it is made evident in how we live.** Does your life demonstrate that you are not absorbed with just your own physical reality? If not, there is a remedy for that!

**2. To Believe in the Resurrection you need Scripture and Jesus' Interpretation.**

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O **foolish ones**, and **slow of heart** to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

Again, thanks be to God for His gift of Grace to help us understand when we hold onto our stubborn presuppositions. Jesus is not calling these guys idiots, the word fools in the scripture simply means **non-understanding**. That's important Jesus didn't see these guys as Romans 1 peeps with a blatant ignorance, no, these poor men, had been led to believe in faulty doctrine by misguided teachers on how the Messiah would save. Then he says you are **slow of heart**, that is you are slow to believe, to receive HOPE. He is just calling out the conditions as we described in point 1. So, to help them Jesus doesn't use philosophy, He doesn't use logical reasoning, He goes to the only thing that can bring the light of understanding, the Word of God.

<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.





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Jesus goes to the heart of the matter, the truth is found in the Bible, not in man-made doctrine or contriving. Not only that, but just so you are aware Jesus loves the OT, that is where he built His beliefs on what He should be doing with His life, it is what the Spirit used to show Him His destiny, it was the way that Jesus understood the plans of God for His life. For example, did you know that the whole book of Isaiah is about the coming Messiah and that it paints 3 distinct 'portraits' of the Christ: the King (1-37), the Servant (38-55), and the Anointed conqueror (55-66).<sup>1</sup> Let me just give you two examples that perhaps Jesus would have used to clear everything up for these men.

**Isaiah 53:3-5, 10, & 12 ESV**

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him **punished by God**,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.modernreformation.org/resources/articles/the-mod-messianic-prophecies-in-the-book-of-isaiah>



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For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

**LP:**

Jesus' Interpretation: He must suffer in order to redeem the sin of many.

I think the important thing to remember that when you go looking for a Jesus of your own making in the scripture, you will naturally reject the scriptures you don't like, that challenge your reasoning, and paint a picture of a God that hates sin so much that He will go to such great lengths to save us from it.

Maybe that is your story today loved one. You may be the type of person that doesn't like to hear and receive the story of the resurrection because **you don't like to hear that you needed it**, that your sin required a sacrifice of blood, from a person that didn't deserve that treatment. To live different and free from sin requires that we accept the truth of the suffering servant, that's how Jesus saw it, you need Him, He doesn't need you. Now there's this other important passage in the scriptures I want you to see that maybe these guys needed to see too.

**Isaiah 56: 3-5, & 8 ESV**

<sup>3</sup>Let no **foreigner** who is bound to the Lord say,  
"The Lord will surely exclude me from his people."

And let no eunuch complain,  
"I am only a dry tree."

<sup>4</sup>For this is what the Lord says:  
"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose what pleases me  
and hold fast to my covenant—

<sup>5</sup>to them I will give within my temple and its walls  
a memorial and a name  
better than sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
that will endure forever

<sup>8</sup>The Sovereign Lord declares—  
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:



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"I will gather still others to them  
besides those already gathered."

**LP:**

Jesus' OT revelation led to Gentile Salvation, praise the Lord!

This is another thing that our gents may have overlooked because they didn't want to see it. Jesus saw in Isaiah that He would be saving Gentiles, us, as well as His people. That the path of the cross would have both Jewish and Gentile participants so that all people would see their need for Him and would come to know that He is for all men! That might not have sat well with men who were bullied, taxed, and persecuted by pagans.

You know it's funny but perhaps you need to hear today that Jesus has a lot to say in scripture about a lot of things that are pertinent to today's culture and times.

**2 Peter 1:13 ESV**

His **divine power** has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the **knowledge of him** who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Peter is saying that Jesus' knowledge is recorded in the Bible (***the knowledge of him***), and that is where you find the answers for life. Not only does the Bible speak to spiritual and emotional issues, but the Bible is very clear on topics of government, civil obedience, alternate lifestyles, and even ethnic diversity (racism). You see ALL of the Bible is the Gospel, it is the Good News of life in Jesus, and we should treat it as such!

**True Faith is believing the Resurrection is Real and it is made evident in how we live, therefore in our lives are we showing that the Bible has sway over us?** As I noted earlier, do people see in our lives an obedience and loyalty to a person through obedience to what Bible? Because His will has been recorded in the Word of God and all of it is profitable ([2 Tim 3:16-17](#)).

Now let me speak to the last thing that might be keeping us from putting faith in the Resurrection and receiving it, as made evident in our lives.



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**3. To Believe in the Resurrection you need to Focus on Him and deny Self-Infatuation.**

Vs. 28-29 tell us it's the end of the day, and as Jewish custom dictated you invited others you were traveling with to stop for the night, to enjoy the meal, for no one did traveling at night, it wasn't that safe once the patrols turned in for the evening. This is where it all finally comes together for our guys here.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

Now you might have already guessed what got them to recognize Jesus at this point. He was sitting at a table, He took the bread, He prayed, broke it, and distributed the bread to the men, and that is a scene they would have heard of three nights earlier from the 12. They saw in the symbolism of breaking bread with Jesus, that the Messiah was the bread of life ([John 6:35](#)), He gives His life as a ransom for many ([Mark 10:45](#)), He is the manna in the wilderness (OT confirmation), and only by eating of His flesh (a term they were confronted with in their time with Him [John 6:53-58](#)) could one have any place with Him (NT confirmation). They saw it all in an instance and they believed, they received the resurrection as real, and it had immediate consequences!

<sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup>saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

These men threw caution to the wind and ran out in the middle of the night to run 7 miles back to Jerusalem. Talking about the burning of their hearts. Jesus said their hearts were slow to believe (v.25) and this statement shows that their hearts were coming to life, Jesus was bringing them to life, they were receiving HOPE again. Then by the time they got back Peter had seen Jesus as well!



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The point is when they got their focus off their grief, off their loss, off their presuppositions they found Christ, and discovered He was there all the time!

**LP:**

HOPE in the Risen Christ comes when we look to Him for our wellbeing instead of ourselves.

Family so many of us miss Jesus all the time because we worry so much about everything else in life, things that the Lord said He would already supply us with ([Mat 6:25-34](#)). But don't we all want to live in such a way that we can run out into the night in a dangerous world because the joy of Christ is propelling us to take chances! To tell others we found Him, or **we should say He found us**, when we needed Him, when we thought we had it figured out, and we discovered He was with us all the time!

**[CHALLENGE]**

Seek a church home where your presuppositions are challenged, where God's Word is more feared than the losing of a church's popularity, or gaining a congregation's praise, or cultivating culture's approval. Presupposition deconstruction takes time, and you can't do it with a man-centered church.

Steward the entirety of scripture and not just the things in Red, for Jesus gave us all the Word because all of it points to Him so you may find Him. You have to read the whole Bible for Jesus uses the whole Bible to teach you about Him and about you. The God of the OT is the God of the NT, He is never changing, and what He loves and hates in the OT is what He loves and hates in the modern day.

Sacrifice your earthly desires for your best life now, and instead invest in spending time communing with Jesus and His people, and you will find Him. We spend our time, our money and our worry trying to make our lives enjoyable and memorable when we have the capacity to see Christ in the front of our very eyes. You will see Him in the lives of other people watching them change their lives to suite the needs of Christ. Walk more with the people of God and it will help you to notice the Risen Jesus all the quicker for yourself.



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**True Faith is believing the Resurrection is Real and it is made evident in how we live, may the Church of Highlands reflect a true saving faith as shown in the lives of her people that go out of their way in joy expressing to their neighbors they have seen the Lord, for He is RISEN!**

**[PRAYER]**

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

**Elder** - As Jesus quoted in Luke 4 from Isaiah 61:1-2a -  
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...

Let us do as our Risen Savior did and proclaim the good news that Jesus has come to bind up the brokenhearted, preach liberty to the captive and imprisoned, and proclaim God's favor!

**[COMMUNION]**

Pastor Jody explains The Bread and the Wine  
Followed by Family prayer over the Bread and the Wine - led by heads of households.

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

Elder - "Christians, what do you believe?"

(Adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)



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Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe.  
Hallelujah and Amen.

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that has vindicated His Son in the demonstration of the empty tomb, solidifying His glory forever.

Go in the name of the Son, that has overcome death, who will raise us from the dead one day, to celebrate His final victory.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, helping us to dispel predispositions and doubts, sending us into the world, sharing our joy about our Risen Savior.