

Reflection Questions: Luke 24:36-53

For the message, "When Death Started Working Backwards" given by Pastor John Ferguson at New City Church of Calgary on April 30, 2017

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to NewCityChurch.ca/sermons

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 24:36-53

A summary of the sermon: Luke presents to us the account of appearance of Jesus to his core disciples late Easter Sunday. They thought they were seeing a spirit, but Jesus shows them his scars and they touch his physical resurrected body. The disciples even watch Jesus eat with them. Then he tells them that what has happened is exactly what the Scriptures said would happen, and he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Luke wraps up his gospel by recounting the ascension of Jesus, and how the disciples were worshiping him.

Key Points:

- Nothing less than the physical resurrection of Jesus could have transformed the fear-filled disciples into fearless proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus. In the resurrection, Jesus conquered the grave and so the disciples (& we) have nothing to fear about death.

Key Quotes:

- 1 John 1:1, "...we have seen with our own eyes..., we have looked upon and have touched with our hands...."
- Acts 10:40-41, Peter said, "They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear...to us who had been chosen by God as eyewitnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead."
- Ryken, 674, "The wound-marks remain on the resurrection body of Jesus Christ as a permanent reminder of everything he has done for our salvation. His hands and feet show the Father that he has paid the full price for sin. At the same time, they show us that our sins are fully forgiven. In fact, the glorified wounds of Jesus show us the whole gospel. The marks on his body bear witness to the cross where he died. But his hands and feet belong to the same resurrection body that came out of the empty tomb. These are the two great facts of the gospel: Jesus died, and then in the same body he rose again. These two facts give us the good news of our salvation: by the cross our sins are forgiven, and by the empty tomb we have the free gift of resurrection life."
- Leslie Newbigin, "[This confession, namely that Jesus is Lord] is distinguished in that it is a commitment to a belief about the meaning of the whole of human experience in its entirety--namely, the belief that this meaning is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ, incarnate, crucified, risen, and destined to reign over all things."
- Romans 10:9-10, 13, "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Bottom Line:

- With the resurrection of Jesus, death started working backwards.

QUESTIONS

1. How does this text apply to your life?

- As you read through the text, what grabs your attention? What piqued your interest in such a way that made you think, “I wish Luke would have said more about this”?
- Luke seems to be going out of his way to say that the resurrection of Jesus meant that he had a physical body. It wasn't the case that Jesus was simply a spirit or an apparition. Why is this significant?
- The resurrection of Jesus is the only thing that could have transformed the fear-filled disciples into fearless proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus. How should the resurrection of Jesus have a similar affect upon us?

2. How does this text apply to us as a church community?

- Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to understand that the Scriptures are all about him: the messiah of God and the mission of God. How does a proper understanding of Scripture keep us focused on the person of Jesus? Or to put it another way, what is the cost if we lose the big picture of all that God is doing to rescue and restore this world in Jesus?
- How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission? After all, we are not eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus, but we are witnesses to it. In other words, how does this text form our missional identity to live out and proclaim the gospel of Jesus?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. How does this text apply to our city?

- How does this text help us to answer the objection, “I don't think anyone can know if there is life after death”?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?
- How does this text help me to understand what kind of me God want for his mission in Calgary? Reflect on the quote from Lesslie Newbigin above.

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
- _____