

"Walk Victoriously"

Luke 24:36-49

While there are many proofs of the resurrection of Jesus, perhaps the most powerful evidence that Jesus rose from the dead are the changed lives of His disciples. Once the Spirit of God comes into their lives they become bold witnesses for Jesus, all of whom (historians tells us) suffered for the gospel, many even in death. Why would you willingly give your lives for a message about a resurrected Jesus if it were not true? The disciples would live bravely and victoriously for the rest of their lives because they knew the resurrection was true.

2000 years later the message still changes lives. We now give witness that Jesus rose from the dead so that we can walk victoriously with Jesus and God now as we await our own resurrections one day. While the first disciples needed convincing that Jesus rose before they could walk victoriously and boldly, perhaps we need a reminder in our current environment that scoffs at the difference Jesus makes and threatens to remove His very words, that we need to be reminded that we can walk victoriously today also.

As we come to Luke 24:36, Jesus has already appeared twice, first to some of the women at the now empty tomb who had come early expecting to anoint Jesus' body. Scared by some angels, the ladies were told Jesus had risen and they were to go tell Jesus' followers this very fact. The 11 can't believe what they heard, yet Luke tells us Peter went to the tomb (probably with John as recorded by John) finding it empty.

Then Luke alone mentions the next appearance by Jesus later that day to the two travellers heading back on the Emmaus road, dejected from Jesus being crucified. Yet Jesus appears to them, yet they initially think he is a naïve traveller. Once Jesus reveals Himself to them by breaking bread, they understand and they head back to Jerusalem, to tell the 11 and that happened here. It sounds like they are still there when Luke writes,

24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

I don't think Jesus could have said anything else that was more comforting and humbling than saying 'shalom' to the 11 men, who all abandoned Jesus at the cross. Because when Jesus says 'shalom' He's telling them, 'It's okay. You're forgiven, all will be well, you will see.' And that's a good reminder for us also

Jesus' Resurrection Gives Us Peace **(24:36-43)**

Believing the gospel gives us peace:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering

produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Believing the gospel by faith gives us peace with God through Jesus and assures us of the hope of His presence in our lives always. The disciples thought they lost Jesus but He showed up and assured them all was well. And that is what the disciples needed, assurance and security. And the resurrection does that for all of His followers. Jesus' resurrection gives us peace ...

Even in the midst of doubts (vv.36-40)

The disciples thought they lost Jesus. They failed Him for sure, but Jesus' commitment to us is not based on our commitment to Him. If it were, we would be without hope. Jesus never leaves us nor forsakes us. If He is in our life, we are secure in Him. When they saw Him for the first time ...

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?"

Jesus uses a strong word translated 'troubled'. It means to be physically and emotionally shaken, unsettled. Which is understandable when you meet someone you know has died and now they are not! He also said, 'Why do doubts rise in your mind?' In v.44 He is going to remind them that He told them these things would happen – the suffering, the crucifixion and the resurrection. Doubts rose in their minds as they do in ours when we are not assessing life experiences through Scripture. Scripture is very prominent in these verses. Jesus refers to it as proof of His death, burial and resurrection and tells them later to proclaim it. We cannot tell people the truth if we are unsure of the truth. When doubts rise in our minds about God and Jesus and the Spirit, go to the Scriptures and reassure yourself with the truth. The truth gives us peace and makes us unshakeable. David sang with assurance in Ps. 16:7-8

Ps. 16:7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

David was counselled by God, day and night because he meditated and read the Scriptures that were available to him. In vv.5-6 He saw God's hand all over his life and he committed to putting God as his priority. When doubts arise (which unsettle us), go to the truth (which brings us peace). God's Word gives us peace

And joy secured in truth (vv.41-43)

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.

Seeing Jesus was alive was so shocking that it seemed too good to be true. So Jesus does something very simple yet profound to assure them. He asks for food. And they have a piece of broiled fish. They know the fish is real, they cooked it themselves. They ate some already and this was leftover. So Jesus says, 'Give me something you know is real and I'll eat it.' If they had any remaining doubts, seeing Him eat something they knew was real, satisfied their doubt resulting in their joy.

That is what the truth does for the believer, it gives us joy. And I think that's what James' point is in James 1:2 when he wrote truth,

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Consider is an accounting term, meaning, place this on the credit side of the ledger not the debit side. It feels like a debit but it's actually a credit because it produces gain in your life. Trials have a God-ordained purpose to make us mature. Emotionally we do not like it but we have to assure ourselves with truth from God when He says it's a plus not a negative. We have to lose more of self to gain more of Christ.

Once he assures them that he is really alive, that He reminds them of this very fact; He had to suffer and die so He could rise because

Jesus' Resurrection Gives Us Purpose **(24:44-47)**

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."

This wasn't an accident. It was planned before the creation of the world. Listen to Paul's words to Timothy,

^{2 Tim. 1:8} So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am.

God's purpose to save us through Jesus was planned before the beginning of time, which is now revealed through the resurrection, and now He has entrusted to us the great and godly purpose of spreading the message to the unsaved before the end of time. How do we prepare ourselves to do that?

Immerse yourself in Scripture (vv.44-47)

Jewish people call the Old Testament the Tanakh because of the 3-part division of the Old Testament mentioned by Jesus here. The Law being the Torah (1st 5 books of Moses), Then the prophets, in Hebrew Nevi'im and the writings (Hebrew Ketuvim); TNK, Tanakh. All of Scripture points to Jesus. So we have to immerse ourselves in it so the Spirit of Jesus can open our mind to understand it. Earlier Jesus opened the minds of the two on the road to Emmaus to understand that Scripture points to Him and now He does the same with the 11. Understanding Scripture is a spiritual discipline, not an academic one. If we read and study it just to obtain knowledge, we will miss out on why you're supposed to immerse ourselves in it. We study it

So we can confidently share the gospel (vv.46-47)

^{24: 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.

Here's the gospel. The basic gospel is that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead and all of Scripture explains why (sin), how (through blood sacrifice), through whom (Jesus) for what (forgiveness by faith) and to what end (eternal life). The more we study the Bible the more we understand how the Bible works all those things together to bring us to Jesus through whom we can gain eternal life. We need to tell people this message because they don't know they have a sin problem and this is how you're forgiven.

Yeah but, I don't know it all yet. Yeah but, I'm not very good at it. Yeah but, I get scared ... What's the solution to all our yeahbuts??

Jesus' Resurrection Gives Us Power **(24:48-49)**

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."

But we weren't there, we didn't witness Jesus alive after He died. No, but we have the eyewitness reports of those that did. And we have Jesus' own assuring words that He spoke to Thomas who wasn't there the first time Jesus showed (possibly this account), but when he was there the next time after demanding to see Jesus' hands and feet for himself, Jesus said

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

If you believed the evidence yourself then you also

Have witnessed resurrection power (v.48)

How? By how Jesus saved you from your sins and turned your life around after being a murdering, drug-dealing, terrible person and then at 4 you got saved and turned your life around – or something to that effect. Look in the mirror. You are a witness to resurrection power that took you from a purposeless and selfish life to a purposeful and selfless life of wanting to see others changed by the resurrection of Jesus. And that was done by the Spirit of God who came into our life at salvation, the same Spirit who came upon the disciples in Acts 2 that Jesus promised here.

We also have the same Spirit (vv.48-49)

That same Spirit sealed you, gifted you and now empowers you to be His witnesses by bringing to our minds the words of Scripture that we have read and studied. Jesus tells this to us through His disciples the night before He died,

²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. ²⁸ "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

The resurrection changed everything for the eleven. Once the Spirit comes, they become bold witnesses for Christ. They now walk victoriously because of the resurrection. Their salvation is secure in the One who rose from the dead.

And so is ours. Yes, Jesus is gone now and we need to live by faith walking victoriously – not arrogantly, but confidently - because we know He gives us peace in the midst of doubts and trials, a truthful message with purpose in a world that doesn't recognize truth any-more, and by the power of His very Spirit working through us to help others have their minds and hearts open to understand what Jesus did and said. If God is for us, who can be against us.

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If you have any comments or questions about this message please contact us at olivet@rideau.net