

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

“An Invitation into Wonder” Luke 24:1-12 Sunday 9AM Service

If nothing more, the resurrection of Jesus Christ declares to all of us for all of eternity that there is nothing impossible with God. While becoming a Christian does not immediately answer all of life’s curiosities or prevent all of life’s pains, spiritual rebirth does usher us into an adventure with the unseen God. Even a century ago, the Christian life was filled with far more awe and wonder than most Christians experience today. It is not that the message or power of Jesus has changed, but we have far more intrusive and distracting elements coming against us than did previous generations of Jesus-followers. We are literally distracted out of our ability to marvel at God. This message invites all Christians to recapture the spiritual wonder and awe that surrounds the life, death and resurrection of the Savior. Have you lost your wonder? The empty tomb of Jesus calls us back to our sense of awe.

I. The Context of Sadness & Loss (1-3)

A. The women were numbed by their loss (Luke 24:1) - “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.”

Their Savior had died. They had witnessed Him giving His last breath. They knew exactly where His tomb was located. The Sabbath had now passed so the women could go and prepare the already-entombed body of Jesus. Their heartbreak and loss were immeasurable as all their hopes had died along with the Savior. On the morning of the first day of the week, as they headed toward Jesus’ tomb to honor his body, they expected only the continuation of their losses.

B. Their sadness was interrupted by a surprise (Luke 24:2) - “And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb...”

When they arrived at the tomb, they could hardly believe what they found awaiting them. The large stone which had been placed in front of the tomb to seal it off was now rolled out of its place. This was no small feat and

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

could not have happened on accident. Somebody had intentionally unsealed the tomb of Jesus.

C. They were being dared to hope again (Luke 24:3) - “...but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”

The women risked it and peered into the tomb. There was no longer a body in there. They would have seen the graveclothes lying there, empty of the corpse of Jesus. Where was the body of their Savior? Why was the tomb empty and the stone rolled away? At their deepest moment of defeat, could it be that God was offering them unprecedented hope?

II. An Angelic Message to Affirm the Moment (4-7)

A. They saw the glorious messengers (Luke 24:4) - “While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.”

As their minds were racing, from nowhere there appeared to them two other-worldly beings. The men seemed to be shining in a brightness that indicated something supernatural was occurring. Clearly, these were two angels appearing in human likeness.

B. They heard the greatest news (24:5-6a) - “And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

The women instinctually fell to the ground as Heaven’s atmosphere filled the tomb area. Their sense would have been completely overwhelmed as they sought to process in the moment what was occurring around them. Then, the angels gave them a gentle interrogation, wondering what they were doing in a place of death. The question is framed up in a way that released the great news of the resurrection in a manner which would have called them into a joyful hope. Jesus would never be in a tomb again. The One who died was now raised from death. Joseph of Arimathea could have

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

his burial plot back. The King was finished with it. The angels let the women know that Jesus was alive.

C. They received the glad reminder (Luke 24:6b-7) - “Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

Sensing the inner struggle that the women were having as they sought to process the glorious news, the angels reminded them that Jesus had prophesied of his death, burial and resurrection. The women were being pointed back to what Jesus had spoken in order to understand what they were now experiencing. Jesus had kept His word to His followers.

III. The Wrong Place for Indifference (8-12)

A. The women released the word (Luke 24:8-10) - “And they remembered His words and, returning from the tomb, they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles.”

Luke’s Gospel moves swiftly into the scene that found the women becoming the first human evangelists of the Gospel. They ran quickly to the place where the men were gathered and spilled out the news of the stone being moved, the tomb being empty and the angelic messengers declaring that Jesus had risen from the dead. Noteworthy is the point that the very first people to share the greatest news offered to humankind were women. In their day, the testimony of women was regarded as worthless. Such prejudice was against the women of that day that their words could not even be permitted at all in legal proceedings. Jesus, from the very hour of His resurrection, began to shift things in the culture. He withheld from the men the honor of being the very first heralds of the Gospel. He gave that privilege to the daughters of God who had awakened early that morning to honor His body. Their burial spices would never be needed. Their Gospel witness would fill the day with the fragrance of glory!

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

B. The men rejected the message (Luke 24:11) - “But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.”

What a sad testimony. The Apostles rejected the testimony of their sisters. They initially dismissed the news of the resurrection. To their chauvinistic ears, the women sounded like emotionally driven drama queens. Imagine the heartbreak of the women as they plummeted from the high of hearing Jesus is alive to the low of their male counterparts operating in unbelief.

C. Peter let hope move him (Luke 24:12a) - “But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in...”

Thankfully, rather than stewing in doubt, Peter got motivated to go and see for himself. Moving quickly, the typically impulsive disciple ran to the tomb and sought to verify the emotional testimony of the women.

D. Resurrection changed everything (Luke 24:12b) - “...he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.”

To his awestruck amazement, Peter found the situation exactly as the women had described. As the women had quickly moved from their high to their low, Peter took the opposite course. His shame, doubt, unbelief and fear began to be replaced with the pulses of joyful hope. Could it really be? Did the Master actually arise?

This is what God is doing still today. As we live in a world full of cynicism, doubt, denial and jaded rejection of the testimony of the Church, God is still confronting people and bringing them back into wonder. If Jesus is alive, then death no longer has the final say-so. If Jesus is alive, then He was and is something different than a merely human religious leader. If Jesus is alive, then His words take on an entirely new level of importance, for He has proven that He is greater than time, space and the forces of the natural world. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the exclamation point on the Father’s words, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!” (Matthew 17:5). May the Church pry her distracted eyes off

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

of the temporary demands of this life. We must keep the Son of God at the center-point of all our thinking and living. He is alive. He ascended from this earth and sat down on His throne at the right hand of the Father. He promised that He is going to return here and establish His Kingdom. Let the wonder and awe return to us as we intentionally marvel at this living Man named Jesus! Peter left the tomb that morning marveling at what had happened. For Peter, nothing ever would be the same. Everything changed that morning - everything had been elevated. Everything rose up to a higher level!

11:15AM Notes Below

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

“Resurrection Streams” Luke 24:36-53 Sunday 11:15AM Service

After Jesus arose from the grave, He intentionally began to reveal Himself to various people. There could be no room for mistaking this Gospel fact: Jesus, the One who had died on the cross, was physically alive and walking among the people again. From the fountain of His resurrection, various streams of hope began to move throughout Jerusalem. Nothing would ever be the same as God’s beloved Son had conquered death, sin and the devil. In the earliest moments after He arose, Jesus spoke to His followers, taking them from the prophetic scriptures that spoke of His resurrection centuries before, to the future mission He was imparting to the generations of followers who comprise the Church. Even today, we are flowing in the love, power and mission that streams from His empty tomb. What is a historical fact has a modern impact - the son of God is streaming Himself through the Church today.

I. Jesus Removes All Doubt (36-43)

A. His personal presence manifests (Luke 24:36) - “As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, Peace to you!”

Earlier in the day, a stone was rolled away from the entrance of a borrowed tomb. From out of that tomb emerged the risen Son of God who had just conquered, death, hell and the grave. He had revealed himself throughout the day at various moments, and now had supernaturally appeared in physical form in the midst of the disciples who were discussing the multiple reports of His resurrection and subsequent appearances around Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. He appears from out of nowhere in the room and releases the most appropriate blessing of peace upon them. Jesus was personally manifesting Himself to those whose faith and courage needed bolstering.

B. His welcoming reassurance is released (Luke 24:37-39) - “But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

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.”

Their senses were being overwhelmed as many were seeing Jesus physically for the first time since He had died on the cross. Their responses were not subtle as the original language indicates that they became very afraid at the startling and sudden appearance of Jesus in the room. Always the compassionate Shepherd, Jesus immediately moved to reassure them that it was truly He who was in their midst. He gave them the chance to touch His physical body so that they would not mistakenly believe that He was only there in some visible spirit-form.

C. His patient commitment is displayed (Luke 24:40-42) - “And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, Have you anything here to eat? They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them.”

Now their initial fears began to quickly fade away into joy and awe. It seemed too good to be true as they beheld the wonder of the resurrected Savior. As their cognitive senses were still struggling to make sense of what was happening, Jesus intentionally kept things as normal as can be. He asked them for something to eat and then, in what might have felt absurdly normal, He began to eat the fish they provided for Him. In this embracing of normal patterns of behavior, Jesus is displaying great patience with His stunned followers as they seek to wrap their minds around what they were seeing. Jesus was taking the initial steps in preparing them to enter into a normal expectation of the supernatural elements of a post-resurrection reality for them as His followers.

II. Jesus Unpacks the Scriptures (44-47)

A. There is a prophetic timeline (Luke 24:44) - “Then He said to them, These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

Jesus then reminds them that He had spoken more than once about the prophecies connected to His life. As He had done earlier in the evening with the two discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus begins to speak the scriptural prophecies about His death and resurrection. We should note the fact that, in the midst of the most supernatural moment of their discipleship up to that point, Jesus intentionally anchors what they were experiencing in God's written Word.

B. There is a prophetic awakening (Luke 24:45) - "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures..."

Jesus provides a supernatural endowment to the disciples so that they are able to understand the Scriptures. This is a helpful reminder for all of us to humble ourselves by always acknowledging that we cannot spiritually discern anything without the supernatural aid from God. The natural mind cannot understand the things of God apart from Holy Spirit revelation (1 Corinthians 2:14). Jesus opens up their understanding through an unspecified, supernatural process.

* Matt. 13:13-14 - "Seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

* Ps. 119:18 - "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

* Acts 26:17-18 {Jesus commissioning Paul} - "I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

* Eph. 1:17-18 - "The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you..."

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

* 1 Cor. 2:14 - “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

C. There is a prophetic hope (Luke 24:46-47) - “...and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Now that the disciples were supernaturally awakened to the certainty of the prophetic timeline concerning the life of Jesus, they were given the mission from Him. The prophecies indicated that Jesus would die and rise. Now that His atoning work was complete, the message was defined as that of repentance and faith in Him that leads to forgiveness of sins. This message of hope is to be preached through all generations to all nations. These disciples would be the prototypes of countless more to follow them. The spreading of the Gospel was to initially begin with them in Jerusalem.

III. Jesus Inaugurates the Mission (48-53)

A. He releases us as His witnesses (Luke 24:48) - “You are witnesses of these things.”

Though they were the first messengers, they would not be the last. We today actually have the same commissioning as they had in their day. We are to testify to those around us of the message of Jesus Christ. The heavy emphasis for the early Church was upon the Resurrection. Modern believers need to reclaim their awe and wonder at this unique element of the gospel which separates Christianity from world religions. Our Savior is still alive, and our world needs to know this.

B. He empowers us for our assignments (Luke 24:49) - “And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

Knowing the facts about the resurrection and having been personally impacted by the presence of Jesus would not be enough for those first witnesses. The goal of the Gospel is not merely releasing information. The goal of the Gospel is to impart a transformation. Accomplishing this requires the ministry of God the Spirit. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as “the promise of My Father.” God has promised to remain interactively present with His people throughout history. In the Old Testament, we primarily read of God the Father’s presence. In the Gospels, Jesus is present. In the Book of Acts up unto this present hour, God the Spirit is present among the Church. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that facilitates the Gospel mission which Jesus released after His resurrection. He empowers His followers for our assignments. Apart from the Holy spirit, we Christians can accomplish nothing which lasts.

C. He takes His rightful place (Luke 24:50-51) - “Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.”

Jesus bodily ascended back to Heaven in that moment. He is still there today. Jesus sits enthroned in Heaven in the exact same body in which He left earth. He has reentered the eternal glory which He has shared with the Father since before the world began. He is not a misty spirit. Jesus has a glorified human body. As He left earth that day in this body, He raised His hands to His followers, perhaps showing them one last time the wounds which purchased their redemption. We must always keep those atoning wounds in the forefront of our understanding. He blessed them verbally that day with His hands raised. He does the same over all of us today who belong to Him.

D. He infuses our lives with meaning (Luke 24:52-53) - “And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.”

While we never move past the resurrection of Jesus, we do move forward from it. Those early disciples were filled with joy because Jesus is alive. They worshipped Him together as He ascended and then returned back to

9AM & 11:15 Notes Easter Sunday

4/21/19 – Jeff Lyle

Jerusalem to wait for the coming of Holy Spirit. As they began living their lives in the new context of a living Savior, they met together in the temple to share worship and praise of God. The resurrected Son of God imparted new life to His followers, and that life looked like worship, joy and praise. May it ever be the same with us.