

If True, This Changes Everything
Easter 2018
Luke 24:1-12

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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Good Morning, thanks for gathering with us!
 - i. We hope to make this an annual tradition!
 - ii. My name is Allan, I am one of the pastors at Grace Hill.
 - iii. If this is your first interaction with Grace Hill, we're glad you're here.
- b. But as a way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus this morning, I wanted us to look to the Bible.
 - i. So, if you have a Bible or an app on your phone, open it to Luke 24.
 - You'll also notice we printed the Scripture we will read in your Song Books.
 - ii. But, when it comes to the resurrection, the Bible makes a startling claim that is worth investigating.
- c. Investigation....that certainly has become a buzz word lately hasn't it...
 - i. Claims were made about Hillary's e-mails! Claims were made about the President's relations with Russia. Claims have been made about this person or that person.
 - And these are claims that if true...certainly change a lot of things...
 - So, what do we do?
 - We investigate! We need to get to the facts.
 - ii. Or you could be like my buddy Mark.



- Who received a letter out of the blue one day from an attorney saying that his long gone great grandfather had property in Canada that was recently sold.
 - And, unbeknownst to my friend, he was the one in the will to receive that money.
 - So, the attorney was reaching out to him to know where he needed to wire the \$1.5 million.
 - That's a claim that you investigate...because if true, it changes everything.
- iii. Or as we've seen in the #MeToo movement...
- People have been emboldened to face their abusers and bring their deeds into the light.
 - Claims are being made that must be investigated...because if true...it changes everything.
- iv. Or if you feel tightness in your chest or a lump in an odd place...
- You investigate...because it could change everything.
- d. See, investigation is a good thing because it is something that we do when claims are made that, if true, have massive implications on our lives.
- i. And the Bible makes a claim about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- And that claim is not just that it happened.
 - It's a claim that if it did happen, it changes everything about your life.



- ii. The Bible goes as far to say in 1 Corinthians 15...that if the resurrection did not happen...if this claim is false...then Christians are to be pitied above everyone...why?...because they are following a false faith.
 - All of what the Bible says hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - If that claim is untrue, we should dismiss everything this book has to say.
 - However, if the claim is true...then it changes everything about your life.
- iii. Let me show you.

II. LUKE 24:1-12

a. I want to read from the Gospel of Luke.

i. Luke is an eyewitness account of the life of Jesus and in Chapter 24, we read of his resurrection.

- We have this printed for you in your Song Books.

ii. Read this with me.

- **¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.**

1. Point out in v.1 “THEY” – the women who were a part of preparing Jesus for his burial in a tomb by preparing spices and ointments for his body.

- **² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in**



dazzling apparel. ⁵ 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? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

- b. So, as we read this account of the Resurrection of Jesus, we have a choice to make just like the Apostles.
- The Apostles were some of Jesus’ followers prior to his crucifixion on the cross and many of them abandoned and betrayed Jesus when he was arrested and executed.
- i. Here in Luke 24, it was several women who on the third day after the death of Jesus had encountered the empty tomb and also encountered an angel who told them that Jesus had risen from the dead.



- And these women ran to go tell the Apostles that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- At that moment, the Apostles had a choice to make.
 1. It's the same choice that all of us have to make.
 2. Is this a claim that is worth investigating or not?
 3. Many of these Apostles wrote the women off as just an idle tale.
 4. But to Peter, he needed to go see for himself.
 5. "If Jesus is really alive, this changes everything and I need to go see...I need to investigate."
 6. So, what about us...is this claim worth investigating?

c. But before we answer that question...

- i. Maybe we need to talk about why it is that this claim...if true...changes everything.
 - And here in Luke 24, it is the angels who remind the women of the significance of the Resurrection of Jesus and they will remind us too.

ii. Read v.5-8

- ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the [ANGELS] said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words..."



- iii. Jesus told everyone who followed him before his crucifixion what was going to happen to him.
 - It just never clicked in their heads.
 - The Apostles themselves thought of this as an idle tale when the women came back to tell them that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- iv. And you know, in our day and age, the story that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose again from the dead is a common story...a well known story...
 - But I worry that it has become so familiar...that we see it as an idle tale and not something that has real implications for our lives.
 - Jesus says that he must be crucified and he must rise again from the dead three days later.
 - Why? Why is it so crucial?
 - Why is it that if Jesus actually rose again from the dead...that it changes everything?

III. THE GOSPEL

- a. Well, let's answer the first question. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
 - i. The answer is that Jesus did not come here to be a teacher. He did not come here to be a religious leader. He did not come here to be a prophet or a moral pioneer.



- Jesus, the Son of God, became a man so he could take our place.
 1. So, he could be a substitute. So he could sub in for us on the cross.
- ii. Because all of mankind has sinned against God.
 - We are not who we ought to be and we are not living the way God created us to live.
 - And we all deserve the judgement of God.
 1. And that judgement is death.
 - Let me make this clear...
 1. There is no way to get out of facing the judgement of God by being religious.
 2. There is no way to get out of it by being a good person.
 3. There is no way to get out of it by giving to the poor.
 4. There is no way to get out of it by forcing yourself to be better than everyone else.
 - Every human being from the richest man to the poorest man, from the most religious person you know to the most evil person you know deserves the judgement of God because we have all sinned against God.
 1. So, our only hope cannot be just trying to be good...or trying to be better than everyone else.
- iii. So, Jesus had to die on the cross because he came here to sub in for us.
 - To literally die in our place.
 1. Jesus comes to take God's judgement in our place so that we can be right with God.



- And this is something that only Jesus was can do because Jesus is the only man to ever have lived without sin.
 1. He did not deserve death...and this means that his death can be on our behalf.
- b. But here's the thing...if all Jesus did was come here to die in our place...and that was it...that means nothing!
- i. Listen, Jesus death only means something, it is only effective on our behalf if Jesus rises again from the dead.
 - If Jesus does not rise again from the dead, then Jesus is just another dead man and that means nothing to us.
 - ii. Let me explain why this is the case.
 - If you have a credit card...and you start charging a bunch of stuff to that credit card...what happens?
 1. You are now in debt to the credit card company.
 2. You owe them money.
 - And the Bible uses the analogy of debt when it talks about our sin against God.
 1. We have racked up debt against God and we cannot be right with God while we are in debt to Him.
 2. We must pay for our sin.
 3. And the judgment that we deserve for our sin is death.
 - But here is the thing... Our personal death does not fully satisfy the debt that we owe God.



1. It would be like having a million dollars of credit card debt and you hope that a payment of \$10 will satisfy it.
 2. What's going to happen if you do that? The credit card companies are coming after you. They have a hold on you. They'll garnish your wages. They'll kick you out of your house. They'll ruin your credit. They'll make your life miserable because they now rule you.
 3. And in the same way, if we die in our sins and with not being right with God...then death will rule over us...it will have a hold over us...it will own us...and we will spend eternity under the judgement of God for the debt that we cannot pay.
- iii. So, think about it, if Jesus subbed in for us on the cross and he never walked out of the grave...
- If death still has a hold on Jesus...this can only mean one thing...the death of Jesus was not enough of a payment to pay off our debt of sin.
- iv. So listen...Jesus had to walk out of the grave!
- He had to!
 - Again, as 1 Corinthians 15 says, that if Jesus is not resurrected from the dead...then death won!
 1. We are still in our sins.
 2. The death of Jesus on the cross means nothing.
 3. We should dismiss everything the Bible has to say.
 - So, Jesus had to walk out of the grave!



- v. Because, when Jesus walks out of the grave...it is the grand declaration that the debt has been paid in full!
 - He subbed in for us on the cross and he defeated death!
 - He paid the debt.
 - Death no longer owns you. Death no longer rules you. Death no longer has claim over you.
 - To those who had Jesus die in their place on the cross no longer have to fear the grave...for all the grave is to us is passage home into eternal joy.
- vi. Jesus had to die on the cross. He had to walk out of the grave. He had to defeat death so we could be reconciled to God.

c. So, back to our the choice that we have...

- i. A claim has been made that Jesus has risen from the dead.
 - If it's not true...then we dismiss everything Christianity and the church has to say.
 - If it is true...than it changes everything...and let me give you three reasons why it changes everything:

IV. THREE REASONS WHY THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING.

- a. ONE – If Jesus rose again from the dead, then we have sinned against God.
 - i. If Jesus actually defeated death on our behalf, then this means death is something we should fear.



- That we are in debt to God because of our sin.
 - And we should take seriously the fact the Scriptures tell us that we have sinned against a Holy God and that we are under his judgement.
 1. 1 John 1:8 says – “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
 - We shouldn’t scoff at this but, in humility, we should examine our life to understand what it means that we have sinned against God.
- ii. It is a terrible thing to live this life rejecting God and scoffing at his judgement....
- Because, as the Bible says, this life is but a vapor compared to eternity.
 - How foolish would it be to stake your entire eternity on the arrogant assumption that this nothing but an idle tale.
- b. TWO – If Jesus rose again from the dead, then redemption is available.
- i. This means that although God is holy and just, he is at the same time merciful and gracious.
- He does not desire for us to taste the sting of death but for us to be reconciled to Him.
 - God made a way for us to be redeemed and forgiven of our sin!
- ii. The Bible says in Romans 10 that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that he rose again from the dead, you will be saved.



- The way that the death and resurrection of Jesus becomes our story is:
 1. By recognizing that we have sinned against a Holy God and therefore confessing our need for Jesus.
 2. We trust that he died and rose again from the dead, defeating death on our behalf.
 - If we believe this. If we trust this. Then we will be right with God and will live forever.
- iii. This isn't about out-moralizing people.
- This is all about Jesus and what He did so that we could be saved.
 1. Colossians 2 says – “And you, who were dead in your sin, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”
 - Redemption is available to those who trust in Jesus and Him alone.
- c. THREE – If Jesus rose again from the dead, we can now live with hope.
- i. We don't have to live life in constant fear of the end.
- We don't have to live our life with the belief that these few decades are our only shot at joy and happiness.
 - We have the hope of eternity because death has been defeated.



- ii. Think about what your life would be like...
 - If you could be set free from the fear of death.
 - If you could be set free from the pursuit of money...
 - If you could be set free from the pursuit of fame...
 - If you could be set free from the pursuit of pleasure...
- iii. The resurrection of Jesus is life-altering because the hope it brings can overhaul the priorities of your life...
 - It's an invitation into joy that cannot be touched by your circumstances.

V. CONCLUSION

- a. So, as I said earlier, we all have a choice to make.
 - i. The same choice that the Apostle has to make when the women came running in proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.
 - Are we going to be like the Apostles...who wrote it off as an idle tale?
 - Or are we going to be like Peter...who went to investigate?
 - ii. Because I don't think anyone can argue that if this is true, if Jesus did come out of the grave, it changes everything.
 - That's a claim that's worth investigating.
- b. So, if you're here and you would not consider yourself a follower of Jesus...
 - i. Whether your mind is made up or if you're still wrestling with what you believe.



- ii. I want to ask you to do me a favor.
 - Will you say this prayer to God...whether you think God is actually there listening to you or not.
 - In the quiet of your heart and the thoughts of your mind...say:
 1. God, I'm not sure if you're there. And I'm not sure if all this about the resurrection is true or not. But if it is true, will you reveal it to me? Will you make my heart believe?
 2. Will you pray that?
 - And we want to be a church that will come along side of you in your investigation.
 1. Also, if you want to connect with us and talk about who Jesus is and what he has done for us, we would like to do that.
 - Two ways you can do that:
 1. You can chat with us today. When I am done with this sermon, I and our elders will be toward the back as we close with a couple more songs.
 2. If you want to come talk with us then, we are available to you.
 3. Or, if you would like to connect over e-mail or some other time, please go to our connect tablets afterwards, give us your e-mail, and check the box that you would like to speak with a pastor and we'll get in touch with you.
- c. Friends, HE IS RISEN!
 - i. And that changes everything.

VI. PRAY

