



Sunday, April 4, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Luke 24

It took a while for the reality and implications of Christ's resurrection to unfold for His disciples. I'm sure to some degree they were still trying to process the reality and implications of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. So, in one sense, nothing like this had happened before. In another sense, the Scriptures and Jesus's own teaching should have clued them in to what was going to happen to the Messiah.

In the Old Testament, there are many pictures of a sacrifice of atonement: the Passover lamb, the sacrifices outlined in Leviticus, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. There are also many pictures of resurrection: Abraham received Isaac back from the dead, figuratively speaking (Heb. 11:19), David "slept" with his fathers (1 Kings 2:10), and the Temple, once destroyed, was rebuilt (John 2:19).

It is important for us, then, to understand how the whole Bible fits together in order to understand who Jesus is, what He has accomplished, and what that means for our lives. The key component with the first disciples, as with us, is the necessity of the Holy Spirit's illumination of His word so that we can rightly understand and respond to it.

Context

Luke 24, being the end of the Gospel of Luke, presents the narrative of Jesus's resurrection and commission to His disciples. But in another important sense, it is the last chapter in volume 1 of a two-volume set (Luke-Acts). In this way, Jesus's resurrection (and later ascension) does not mark the end of His story, but a climactic moment in His ongoing work of redemption.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Luke 24:1-35

“This Is Nonsense!”

1. Denial in the morning (v. 11)
2. Despair at mid-day (v. 17)
3. Euphoria in the evening (v. 32)

Easter Euphoria

- They encountered the living Christ
- They believed His living word

S. Lewis Johnson

“The Resurrection is God’s ‘Amen’ to Jesus’s cry—‘It is finished!’”

Discuss

- 1) What are some commonly held wrong views on Christ's resurrection in our culture? Why do you think those views are popular?

- 2) Pastor Don said, "Many Christians live many days as though Jesus was still in the tomb." What does that look like? Why would it be easy for Christians to fall into that line of thinking?

- 3) The fact that Jesus suffered and died before He rose again proves that the pattern of the Christian life is the cross before the crown. How closely does that pattern match your expectations for your life? How do you know?

- 4) Pastor Don asked the question, "What impression does your countenance give to outsiders about the Christian life?" Is there anything about your life that might give an outsider the wrong impression of Christianity? If so, what?

- 5) How easy or difficult is it for you to understand how the Old Testament points to Jesus? What might you do to grow in your understanding?