

Easter: What Really Matters.

Luke 24

MPS God raised Jesus from the grave and enthroned Him above so He could give life to all who believe and raise them with Him.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus because of three matters of what really matters to God.

INTRO Have you ever been in a situation when you were forced to determine what really matters? There is this clarifying work that takes place when confronted by a situation like this, like after a natural disaster when material things were destroyed or lost, but lives were not. Or, after great fear from threat or danger, and the danger abates. These moments clarify for us what really matters. **Easter makes clear what really matters.**

God raised Jesus from the grave and enthroned Him above so He could give life to all who believe and raise them with Him.

OBJ Three matters of the Biblical text reveal what really matters with God.

READ Luke 24.1-12

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 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. **Luke 24:1-12***

What really matters?

1. The historical reality of eternal significance; God the Father raised Jesus from the dead.

Sunday arrived early while the disciples were still in shock of Friday. Huddled together in small pods and rehashing the events of the past few days, the disciples were mourning and grieving the loss of so much. These ladies were not going to the tomb to claim some promise. They were completing the duties of funeral responsibilities to honor the body of their dearly beloved in death. **Have you ever considered that the context in which we receive the greatest news ever was a grievous injustice, a graphic series of abuses that culminate in a cruel execution, and a funeral?** But there was no other way. The only way to show power and authority over death, hell, and the grave is to walk in and walk away unhindered. And that's what Jesus did. ^{Eph4:9-10} Paul records it this way (1 Cor 15:3b-4), "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures". **Jesus died and was buried, and God raised Him.**

Why did God raise Jesus from the dead? The Bible teaches that God raised Jesus for three specific reasons.

1. God raised Jesus to demonstrate his power over death, and that He will raise us up also with Him.

"But God...made us alive together with Christ..."

⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:4-7

Christian, your being raised with Jesus Christ, though yet to occur, is as secure as Christ's already having been raised!

2. God raised Jesus to show His power over hell, and prove that His righteous demand for sin and our justification had been secured. Paul explains this when, speaking of Abraham, he states,

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." Romans 4:24b-25



3. God raised Jesus to show His power over the grave, that those who are raised have eternal life.

“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.” 1 Corinthians 15:42

THIS REALLY matters: God has power over death, that He has forgiven and justified from sin, and holds final power over the grave. The resurrection is God’s “YES” to Christ’s work on the cross.

READ Luke 24.13-27

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:13-27

What really matters?

2. **The historical record of the eternal Word; Jesus appeared to his disciples to prove He was the living Word.**

How many times I have read this and wondered, “how did they not know this was the guy they were talking about”? But I hear many people regularly talk about Jesus today that, by their conversation, I am convinced they do not actually know Him. **This is a really important matter for us; to speak OF or talk ABOUT Jesus is NOT the same as knowing Him.**

Jesus was not trying to win an argument, but He explained the Scriptures to win people to believe in Him. Jesus’ rebuke and explanation shows that they did not believe the testimony of the ladies from the empty tomb because they had not believed the testimony of Moses, the prophets and all the Scriptures. In other words, they didn’t understand all that had taken place because they had failed to believe those who foretold it. You can say you believe in Jesus, but until you believe His Word you will not recognize Him either. We demand one more proof or testimony, claiming that’s what we need to understand or believe. **Jesus says the only thing lacking is your belief; all you need to believe that He is Lord has already been revealed.**

THIS REALLY matters: Jesus appeared to prove He was the eternal Word, and He calls us to believe in Him.

READ Luke 24.28-35

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:28-35



What really matters?

3. The historical moment of eternal life; Holy Spirit burns conviction in the heart by testimony of the Word to bring saving faith.

Jesus went in with the disciples and they continued discussing the matters of the last few days, that everyone was obviously talking about. While talking, Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Luke doesn't mention that Jesus was "performing the Lord's Supper", but he doesn't have to; everyone was at once struck by it. Luke records, "*And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.*" This is not simply a reference to their vision, but a far deeper "sight of soul". The lives of the disciples saw with the eyes of their hearts to know who Jesus. Even when he was "out of sight", they still knew Him. They said to one another, "*Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?*" The same burning conviction they felt on the road as He explained, revealed, the Scriptures to them, they felt at the Table when He broke bread with them. **Believing in Jesus is far more than only intellectual comprehension; the Spirit works by burning conviction to produce saving faith.**

APPL I remember the day the Spirit burned this conviction in my heart. I still feel it regularly every time I remember the night God saved me, every time the Word zings me, every time the Spirit convicts me. It's not only a feeling, but it surely includes a very distinct feeling. Holy Spirit burning conviction is unmistakably, undeniably God working in the heart and life. I tell you, every Christian in the room feels it even now. **Do you?**

THIS REALLY matters: Holy Spirit burns conviction in the heart to produce saving faith.

**God raised Jesus from the grave and enthroned Him above
so He could give life to all who believe and raise them with Him.**

CLOSE **What really matters is** what you do today with what really matters for your life; how you hear respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Will you believe in Him today, repent of your sin and receive the eternal life that only He can give?**

