

Seeing Jesus: Vindicated
Luke 23:46-24:12, 36-47
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Is death the end?

I) Easter says that death is not the end

24.39: See my hands and feet, that it is I myself

A) The resurrection is a re-embodiment

- Physical
- A new kind of physical

B) A new way of thinking about being a Christian

II) Why should we believe in the resurrection?

A) The tomb was empty

24.2-3: They found the stone rolled away...and they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus

- Jesus body was never found, even by his enemies.
- Why? Various options.

B) The disciples were transformed overnight

- At first: *Perplexed (v. 4), idle talk (v. 11), startled and frightened (v. 37), still disbelieved for joy (v. 41)*
- Then:

III) What does the resurrection mean?

God has done what we could never do—what he had promised for ages to do

A) v. 44: These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me...must be fulfilled...that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed

- Why “must” (v. 44)
- God’s “must”—the compulsion of love

B) The connection between “suffering (and resurrection)” and “repentance for forgiveness”

- Repentance
- God’s “problem” with repentance all by itself
- God’s solution to the “problem”
- The meaning of the resurrection in the context of God’s solution

IV) Responding to the resurrection

- Repenting
- Asking for Jesus to open our eyes

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) List and discuss (or reflect on) the merits of at least two different views of what happens when we die. List and discuss (or reflect on) the merits of at least two views of how we “live on” after we die.
- 2) Discuss the following statement by scholar N.T. Wright. How do we see his account of the resurrection reflected in what we observe about Jesus on resurrection day (Luke 24:36-43):
“People often think that resurrection simply means life after death or ‘going to heaven’, but in the Jewish world of the first century it meant a new embodied life in God’s new world: a life after ‘life after death,’ if you like. But the new body which will be given at the end is not identical to the previous one. In an act of creation parallel only to the original creation itself, God will make new type of material, no longer subject to death, out of the old one. In Jesus’ case, of course, this happened right away, without his original body decaying...For the rest of us, whose bodies will decay, and whose bones may be burnt, it will take a complete act of new creation” (from *Luke for Everyone*)
- 3) No one, not even the first century enemies of the proclamation that Jesus was alive from the dead, ever produced Jesus’ body. Discuss the following alternatives to the NT claim that he had risen: The authorities (either Roman or Jewish) removed the body; the disciples removed the body; Jesus, who never really died, walked out and convinced his followers that he was alive from the dead.
- 4) Some dismiss the resurrection of Jesus as scientifically impossible and for that reason untrue. How does the following statement by N.T. Wright challenge that assertion?
“There are, after all, different types of knowing. Science studies the repeatable; history studies the unrepeatable. Caesar only crossed the Rubicon once, and if he had crossed it again, it would have meant something different the second time. There was, and could be, only one first landing on the moon. The fall of the second Jerusalem Temple took place in A.D. 70 and never happened again. Historians don’t of course see this as a problem and are usually not shy about declaring that these events certainly took place, even though we can’t repeat them in the laboratory.” (N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, pg. 64)
- 5) Notice the “must” in Luke 24:44. Why the “must”? Whose “must” is it? What is it about the Old Testament story (Jesus speaks of the “must” arising out of “the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms”) that establishes the necessity of Jesus’ suffering and resurrection?
- 6) Reflect on the following: “Since death is the result of sin (Romans 6:23, “the wages of sin is death”), the resurrection of Jesus means that the debt of sin has been paid off by his suffering.”
- 7) What, according to Luke 24:45, changed the disciples’ from those who dismissed the claim of resurrection from “idle talk” (24:11) to those who were fired up about it? How do we become beneficiaries of the same transforming influence? Spend some time praying for it.