

“What Makes the “Good News” So Good?”

Easter 2019

Selected Scripture

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." Matthew 27:62-64

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'" Matthew 28:5-7

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... Romans 1:16

What makes the “Good News” so good?

1. Discouraged, disappointed and confused

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked... Luke 24:17-19

..."About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place." Luke 24:19-21

"In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." Luke 24:22-24

2. Encouraged and Enlightened

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. Luke 24:28-31

3. Energized and Elated

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
Luke 24:32-36

Application: It is really important that we see the big picture and understand the reality of the resurrection. The Old Testament predicted it. The main reason the disciples believed in the resurrection of Jesus is that they saw Him alive after He was dead. Jesus presented Himself alive on many different occasions over a forty day period of time. That is why they kept testifying time and time again, to the fact that they were eyewitnesses. Firsthand evidence of the disciples is a powerful argument for the resurrection of Jesus.

- **You've got to see the big picture.**

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
Romans 1:18-19

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
John 14:19

- **The resurrection is a non-negotiable.**

...if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins... And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.
1 Corinthians 15:17-20 NLT

- **Your response is essential.**

And now you have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own...
Ephesians 1:13 NLT

...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.
Romans 10:9-10

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I know I can't save myself, and I know you have promised to save those who repent and put their trust in you alone. I trust you to forgive my sins and give me eternal

life. Thank you for dying in my place and rising from the dead so that I might live forever with you. Amen.