

The Great Sayings in the Gospels
175 - The Resurrection of Jesus Christ 05
Now What?
Luke 24:36-53

- 36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.
- 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.
- 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?
- 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.
- 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.
- 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?
- 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.
- 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.
- 44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.
- 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,
- 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
- 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.
- 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
- 50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.
- 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.
- 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:
- 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Introduction:

I am deeply indebted to Matthew Henry for some of the thoughts in my opening remarks this morning.

Luke 24:36-49

Five times Christ was seen the same day that he rose: by Mary Magdalene alone in the garden (John 20:14), by the women as they were going to tell the disciples (Matt 28:9), by Peter alone, by the two disciples going to Emmaus, and now at night by the eleven, of which we have an account in these verses, as also John 20:19. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

In the appearing to the 10 as they gathered that evening, there were important things established to them. First of all, it was a great surprise.

Luke 24:36-49

“He came in among them *at a very good time*, as they were comparing notes concerning the proofs of his resurrection: As they thus spoke, and were ready perhaps to put it to the question whether the proofs produced amounted to evidence sufficient of their Master's resurrection or no, and how they should proceed, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and put it out of question. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

Secondly, we note the comfort He spoke to them.

Though this was a common formal greeting, giving them to understand that He was not there to condemn them, there was a far greater and higher meaning involved in the words - the very ones used by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement when He had seen the shekinah above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant - words that conveyed the acceptance by God of the sacrifice and that declared an ongoing but uneasy and conditional state of peace between God and the Jews until the next Day of Atonement.

Christ's declaration, however, was that a Perfect, Permanent, Unbreakable and Eternal state of peace now existed between God and all of His people.

The cause of the enmity, the lack of peace, that had existed before was, of course, their sins upon which God had sworn Eternal Vengeance. But now that vengeance had been visited upon Christ instead of them and now no issue of conflict remained on God's side. Jesus could declare “Peace be unto you” or “Shalom” without any possibility of contradiction. God was and is at peace with His people.

Thirdly, we see their fear in the face of the incredible news that Jesus is Risen and has declared peace between us and God. They thought they were seeing a spirit, a ghost, which was never a good omen to the superstitious Jews. That frightened them.

They had just been hearing reports from those to whom He had appeared on the road to Emmaus but now *here He was*, appearing out of nowhere and speaking to them.

So much for faith, right?

But I wonder how many of us would be afraid if He suddenly appeared here this morning, right in front of us.

Fourthly, we notice the proofs that He offered. He showed them His body, that it was real and tangible and He taught us all something about resurrection bodies, “Spirits do not have flesh and bone” meaning that resurrection bodies do.

He appealed to their sense of sight showing His hands and feet with the visible evidence of the nails that pieced them. He was not ashamed of those wounds not how He obtained them,

willingly putting them on display for all to see.

Then He appealed to their sense of touch, offering to let them feel of His hands, even to put their hands in the wound in His side. We are not told whether any of them took Him up on that but I will not be surprised to find out one day that some of them did.

Then, He ate with them, furthering the proofs. Peter laid great emphasis on this in his ministry.

Acts 10:39-41

- 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:
40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;
41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

The fact that they were so incredulous at His appearing and so slow to believe, requiring many proofs, shows that the whole theory of them stealing the body and concocting a story could not possibly be true.

But now I want to turn our attention to the final words of the Lord.

Jesus parting words were two commands and the world in which we live knows very little about either of them. (1) Preach repentance and remission of sins to the whole world, beginning at Jerusalem, and (2) Tarry in Jerusalem until you are endued with Power from on high.

I. Go to the Whole World and Preach.

Actually Matthew, Mark and Luke give slightly different wording to this command from Jesus.

Matthew records in ch. 28,

- 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. KJV

Notice the words, ***“teach all nations...to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”***

Marks record reads in ch.16:

- 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

And, then, our text from Luke:

Luke 24

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

(Paraphrase) ***“preach repentance and remission of sins.”***

We have been so programmed that most of us do not actually realize that anything other than ‘go into all the world and preach the gospel’ is said. So, why would all three gospel writers pen something different about these last words of Jesus. The reason is fairly simple if you think about it, ***He said all three things and they all mean the same thing.***

Now, again, we have been conditioned by what we have heard in our upbringing or how we have been trained and taught in church. For the most part Christian people, even Christian people who believe in the Sovereignty of God, think that the gospel is that little sales pitch we are to give to those who are unregenerate to tell them how to be saved.

It involves gaining an acknowledgment that one is a sinner, getting him to admit that he doesn’t want to go to hell, and then promising him eternal life and heaven if he will pray the sinner’s prayer. We think that this is sharing the gospel with someone. Everything else in these final words of Jesus are and have been ignored to the point that we do not even consider them any more.

But do you realize that this ‘sales pitch’ that we are told that we are to button hole everyone and ‘share’ is very new on the stage of Christian World History? Do you know that for centuries sinners were not at all dealt with in this way?

Do you know what Jesus preached?

After Jesus was baptized by John, He was led into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days. After successfully surviving that He came back to Nazareth.

Matt 4:12-17

12 Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

17 **From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom**

of heaven is at hand.

The message was not, “I love you and I have a wonderful plan for your life,” it was, “you are in rebellion against God and if you ever hope to see the Kingdom of God you will repent of your sins.”

Do you realize that the Sermon on the Mount was very much the gospel? Consider for a moment the Beatitudes.

Matt 5:2-10

- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do you hear what He is saying? “There is a life that is blessed by God and that life involves humility, grief over sin, disciplined obedience to God, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, being merciful and pure in heart, living in peace, and being willing to be persecuted for doing what is right. No other life is blessed and if this does not describe you, repent until it does. This is the only way to be a part of the Kingdom of God.” This is the Gospel!

By describing the life of the person whom God saves, He automatically contrasts it to the lives of those who were hearing Him. What can a call away from their lives to the life He is describing be called except for Repentance?

But is that really true? It sounds so different from what we hear all of the time. Is that what His disciples heard?

Mark 6:7-12

- 7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
- 8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:
- 9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.
- 10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.
- 11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for

that city.

12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Again, they were not grabbing people by the collar and explaining to them that God loved them and wanted them to be saved if they would only pray the 'sinner's prayer.' They were calling people out for sin, for how their lives were contrary to the teachings of Christ and calling upon them to repent of their sins and begin to live as Jesus taught. No wonder Jesus anticipated that they would be thrown out of some towns, just as He had been at Nazareth.

Oh, remember that?

Luke 4:16-29

- 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.
- 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,
- 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
- 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
- 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.
- 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.
- 22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- 23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.
- 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
- 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
- 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.
- 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.
- 28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,
- 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

And what did He say? He said that He had come to bring salvation to such as were brokenhearted over their sins, would confess themselves as captives, blind and bruised, and come to Him as Lord. To that He added the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God from the lives of Elijah and Elisha.

And what was their response? The same as would be the response to the same message in most churches today, they took Him out to the edge of a cliff to throw Him over and kill Him. This is the gospel!

Well, that doctrine changed after Pentecost, didn't it preacher, when the Holy Spirit came and the disciples began to carry out the Great Commission?

Well, did it?

You will recall Peter's message, right, how that He affirmed the Deity of Jesus Christ and laid the charge at the feet of the Jews who were listening to him that they had murdered the Righteous Son of God, the Holy One of Israel?

Acts 2:36-41

- 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
- 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Well, maybe that was just during the Transition time between the Old Dispensation and the New. Later they changed that message, right?

Peter preached some days later and had essentially the same message.

Acts 3:14-21

- 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;
- 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.
- 16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
- 17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.
- 18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

- 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Oh, then it was Paul, the one who was called to preach to the Gentiles. When he carried the gospel beyond the land of Israel to the pagans, he changed it to what we hear today, isn't that right?

When he passed by Ephesus for the last time he called for the elders and reviewed his ministry to them, most of whom *were* converts from paganism.

Acts 20:17-21

- 17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.
18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,
19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:
20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,
21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And, then, when he appeared before Agrippa, on his way to Rome:

Acts 26:13-20

- 13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.
14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:
20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Remember that even to the philosophers and religionists he had proclaimed, “God hath commanded all men, everywhere, to repent.” Acts 17:30.

Some of this we can easily comprehend. The hope of salvation by works proclaimed by the rabbins of Jesus day was a hopelessly false religion held together by the arrogance that these people were not actually sinners like the Gentiles but were capable to doing works pleasing to God without spiritual conversion and repentance. The religion had nestled all of their ‘comfortable and acceptable’ sins into categories to where they could still be kept without repentance.

The outright hypocrisy of the Pharisees, we can easily see how that they had a great show of religion but were unwilling even to help aging parents as was their duty. They had contrived a religion which allowed them not to honor their parents and not to take responsibility for the widows and orphans and still pretend that they were high and holy people. One can readily see how that they ought to repent.

And then those pagans with their gross immorality, their perversions, even sometimes sacrificing children to idols, who can argue for them? Surely such people would need to repent of sins in order to be saved? Who could pretend that a simple sinner’s prayer could save them without radical casting aside of their wicked deeds?

But, then... there is you and me. We have grown up in a culture known around the world as ‘Christian.’ We have an orthodox faith. We profess the same religion as the ancient Anabaptists, the Reformers, even the Puritans. We have done the right things, made public professions of faith in Christ, been baptized and joined the church. We are not openly immoral. We give our money to good causes. We don’t mistreat people. ***We are Christians for crying out loud!***

But, I have a question for you, friend. Have you ever repented of your sins and given your life, without reservation, to Jesus Christ?

You see, it is possible for all to seem well and things be horrible wrong, even for people who believe that they are Christian.

Rev 2:1-5

- 1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
- 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out

of his place, except thou repent.

It is possible to have all of our ducks in a row and still be in trouble with God.

Does your love for the Lord Jesus Christ burn bright and hot? Or does everything in the world get in the way of your personal devotions to Him? That is sin, grievous sin, hideous sin, which calls for profound repentance to correct.

Rev 3:14-17

- 14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
- 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
- 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.
- 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

It is entirely possible for all to seem well and for all to be wrong. I never have truly figured out what it means for Jesus to come and take away His candlestick or for Him to ‘spew’ people out of His mouth. I do know this, the remedy for both situations was repentance, the gospel, pure and simple. And the consequence for ignoring Him was to be unpleasant on an infinite scale. American Christianity has done what the Jews of Jesus’ day had done. We have woven our ‘acceptable sins’ into the fabric of our religion so that we see no need for repentance. In reality, this is a denial of the gospel message. It says that a person can keep certain sins, so long as everyone else agrees, and still be right with God.

That, my friend, is a lie.

There is a blessed life, for sure, that God has for His people, but His people are those who repent of their sins, are led by His Spirit, and who walk in the righteousness that He talked about in the Great Sermon on the Mount.

Where are you in this picture? Self-satisfied, complacent, certain that heaven is yours and that hell can never be for you? You may be in as much danger of perishing without Christ as any unreached native in the bush of New Guinea. I pray that it is not true, but you must repent and believe the gospel in order to be saved, that is certain.

Here is the frustration. It is possible to believe these things, study these things, even preach these things and still our hearts not be burning with love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Only He can deliver us from our own self-satisfaction which may, itself, be a self-delusion which keeps us from hearing the message of the gospel.

But still it is true that unless we repent we perish.

II. Tarry until you are endued with power.