

# The Resurrection Changed *Everything!*

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —*Psalm 145:11*  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —*Joshua 22:5*

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Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "**Talking Points, Walking Points**" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "**Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time**", are perfect for private reflection.

## Questions for Reflection

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why?**
- Pastor Doug mentioned three things that Jesus' resurrection accomplishes:
  - It shatters the atheistic world-view.
  - It is the key to understanding the Scriptures.
  - It gives us a powerful message for the world.

Which one of these is **most** meaningful to you?  
**Why that one?**
- Some people say, "Well, even if the resurrection didn't really happen and this life is all there is—living life as if it's all true still leads to a better quality of life now." Read 1 Corinthians 15:16-19. What does the Bible say about that conclusion? (Still not sure? See 1 Corinthians 15:32b.)
- How can using the lens of "Christ as Savior of the world" help us understand the **whole** Bible?
- Who do you know who needs to hear the evidence for Christ's resurrection?

**Need help connecting with God?**  
For free hope and help, write to:  
[counseling@tcc.org](mailto:counseling@tcc.org)

## Application-Challenge

- Jesus promises that if you place your trust in him, He will raise you up on the last day (John 6:40). Trust him today!

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



# Sermon Summary

As we read through this chapter carefully, you will notice three themes that seem to repeat themselves in the various sections of Luke's retelling of the resurrection story.

**The Resurrection is a worldview-shattering historical event.** Many people today dismiss the resurrection out of hand. They say it didn't happen because it couldn't happen. For them, miracles are impossible. And of course, you can trace that conviction back to their atheistic worldview. But Luke 24 has all the marks of a historical, eyewitness account. When it talks about the empty tomb, many details are included, such as the fact that the first witnesses were women. In that day, if you were making up a story about the resurrection, a story that you wanted someone to believe, you would omit the "women eyewitness" part. Why? Because in the first century, women were accorded very low status. Their testimony was inadmissible in both Roman and Jewish courts. Another thing that indicates that the resurrection was a real historical event is Luke's account of Jesus' ascension (vv. 52-53). The Jews were fierce monotheists. They only worshipped one God, the God of the Bible. The first of the Ten Commandments prohibits worshipping other gods. And yet here they are, worshipping a man named Jesus! For the early disciples, the resurrection was a mind-blowing, worldview-shattering historical event that radically changed their lives! The resurrection was preached as a fact—an inconvenient, worldview-disrupting, persecution-inducing fact of history. This fact cost many of the disciples their very lives. They were eyewitnesses of this event, and that is what made their testimony so compelling and their courage in the face of persecution so indomitable.

**The Resurrection is the key to understanding the Scriptures.** Jesus makes this point directly when talking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (vv. 25-27), and again when he was gathered with his disciples in Jerusalem (vv. 45-47). Jesus is essentially saying here, "All of the Scriptures are about me. They point to me." The resurrection is the key to understanding the Scriptures because it validates Jesus' claim to be the Messiah, who is the subject of the Scriptures. One day, as recorded in the book of Acts, this same resurrected Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, which led him to rethink everything he thought he knew about Jesus. In the days after Jesus appeared to him, Paul began to put things together. He must have thought to himself, "Now wait a minute. If God did raise Jesus from the dead, then he validated Jesus' claim to be the Messiah. That must mean that God does love him and was pleased with him. That means when he was cursed and abandoned on the cross, he must have been cursed and abandoned for someone else's sins, not his own." And suddenly, he turns to the rest of the Bible which he carried around in his head and he thinks about the book of Isaiah. The first part of the book portrays the Messiah as a King, but the second part portrays him as a suffering servant. They couldn't both be the same figure, could they? Well yes, they could! And then he thought about the sacrificial system and it became clear to him that the blood of bulls and goats and sheep could never completely atone for man's sin. That doesn't make much sense. No, the sacrificial system must have been pointing to the coming Messiah—the sinless Lamb of

Prophecy	Scripture
A descendant of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 1:9
Of the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33
Of the house of David	Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1
Will perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35
Will cleanse the temple	Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12
Rejected by his own people	Psalms 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7
Die a humiliating death	Psalms 22; Isaiah 53
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38
Prays for his persecutors	Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:43
Rises from the dead	Psalms 16:10; Mark 16:6
Ascends into heaven	Psalms 68:18; Acts 1:9
Sits at God's right hand	Psalms 110:1; Hebrews 1:3

God, the suffering servant, whose sacrifice could cleanse us from our sin. And what about Ezekiel and Jeremiah? Look at those places where it talks about a new covenant that God was going to make with his people? A covenant where he would write his laws on their heart, enabling a new level of obedience, a new knowledge of the Lord, and a new forgiveness of sin. It almost sounds like they would no longer be a need for the sacrificial system and for priests and a temple. Once Paul understood the resurrection, then he understood the cross. And once he understood the cross and the resurrection paired together, the whole Old Testament made sense! And the same thing is true for us! Once you understand the cross and the resurrection, the whole Bible begins to make sense. You begin to see that Jesus really is its principal subject.

**The Resurrection gives us a powerful message for the world.** Anytime in the text someone learns about the resurrection or meets the resurrected Jesus, they immediately tell someone else. For example, the ladies who discovered the empty tomb immediately went and told the disciples. So did the two disciples on the road to Damascus. No one is sitting on this message! It is not a message that you can sit on! This is a message for the whole world because God's love extends to the whole world. It is for everyone (John 3:16). This is Easter Sunday. Church, we have a message to tell the world! A message from a God who loves us so much he laid down his very life for us in the person of Jesus. But the world won't know about this message if we don't tell them. Paul expresses our responsibility this way: "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are all broken. We all sinners. We all need a Savior and Jesus is that Savior. We know that because of the resurrection. The resurrection was a paradigm-shattering historical event. It made sense of the cross. It the key to understanding the Scriptures. It gives us a powerful message for the world. Are you certain that your sins are forgiven? Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins and he rose again from the dead so that you can know that he has the power to forgive sin (Isaiah 55:7). In John 6:40, Jesus said, "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." This is Jesus' promise to you. If you place your trust in him, he will raise you up on the last day.

## Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

**Among the proud, urbane, sophisticated Corinthians, Paul “determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). Yet for Paul, “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” was enough to fill a life-time of ministry and half the New Testament! Let’s fill our week with thoughts of “Christ, and Him crucified.”**

**Monday—Saturday: Read the prayer below each day—slowly, thoughtfully, and, if possible, aloud. Hear yourself saying these words. Let God hear you pray them to him.**

- **Which words and concepts particularly warm your heart?**
- **Which words and concepts perfectly express your love for God?**
- **Which words and concepts challenge coldness or hardness in your heart?**

My Father, enlarge my heart, warm my affections, open my lips;  
supply words that proclaim “Love shines at Calvary.”  
There, grace removes my burdens and heaps them on your Son,  
made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for me;  
There the sword of your justice smote the Man, your fellow;  
There your infinite attributes were magnified—and infinite atonement was made;  
There infinite punishment was due—and infinite punishment was endured.

Christ was all anguish—that I might be all joy,  
cast off—that I might be brought in,  
trodden down as an enemy—that I might be welcomed as a friend,  
surrendered to hell’s worst—that I might gain heaven’s best,  
stripped—that I might be clothed,  
wounded—that I might be healed,  
thirsty—that I might drink,  
tormented—that I might be comforted,  
shamed—that I might inherit glory,  
entered darkness—that I might have eternal light.

My Savior wept—that all tears might be wiped from my eyes,  
groaned—that I might have endless song,  
endured all pain—that I might have unfading health,  
bore a thorny crown—that I might have a glory-diadem,  
bowed his head—that I might uplift mine,  
experienced reproach—that I might receive welcome,  
closed his eyes in death—that I might gaze on unclouded brightness,  
expired—that I might live forever.

O Father, you did not spare your only Son, so that you might spare me,  
your love designed and accomplished this wonderful transfer.  
Help me to adore you by lips and life.  
O that my every breath might be ecstatic praise,  
my every step buoyant with delight,  
as I see my enemies crushed,  
Satan baffled, defeated, destroyed,  
sin buried in the ocean of reconciling blood,  
hell’s gates closed,  
heaven’s portal open.

Go forth, O conquering God, and show me the cross: mighty to subdue, comfort, and save. Amen. <sup>00</sup>