


He is Risen!

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



2019.4.21

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- We've all heard people say, "All religions are basically the same." After reviewing the first two paragraphs of the Sermon Summary (see back page), how would you respond to that statement?
- How is it **encouraging** that Jesus' disciples weren't gullible, pre-scientific, unsophisticated suckers?
- Read Luke 24:13-27. Over what were these two men were confused and dejected? What two descriptions does Jesus apply to them (v. 25)? What do you think—was Jesus being too hard on them? **Why or why not?**

To what do you think **they** would have attributed their confusion and dejection?

If these men were right regarding the cause of their confusion and dejection, what's the solution? But if Jesus were right regarding the cause—what is the solution? How do we get that solution?

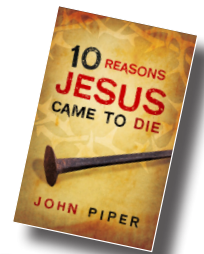
When we're confused and dejected, why are we unwilling to apply Jesus' diagnosis to ourselves?

- Download the pamphlet, "*10 Reasons Jesus Came to Die*". Read it aloud as a group, then:

Which reason do you find most **startling**—and why?

... most **attractive**—and why?

... most **compelling**—and why?



Need help learning to trust God's Word?
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Application-Challenge

Receive the forgiveness Jesus purchased for you at the cross!

You can begin that new life by personally placing your trust in Jesus Christ as your sin bearer.

Sermon Summary

The Christian faith is rooted in the facts of history, and Luke, the gospel-writer, is widely considered to be a master historian. He was determined to set forth an accurate account of Jesus' life and ministry (Luke 1:1-4). Of the four major world religions (Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity), only Christianity makes the historical claim that its founder is still alive. The central tenet of Christianity is belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Refute that claim, and Christianity crumbles.

Over the years many have sought to disprove the resurrection, and thus undermine the foundation of the Christian faith. One such person was the brilliant Stanford University scholar, Dr. Wilbur Smith. But as he poured over the historical evidence he came to a very unexpected conclusion. "Late one night, I turned out the lights in my study, and I got down on my face beside my desk and said, 'Oh God, I believe it.'" Granted, it is not easy to believe that a man who has been dead for three days could be restored to life. Jesus' own disciples were reluctant to accept what their own eyes beheld. But the evidence for his resurrection was so compelling that they too were forced to concede, "Oh God, I believe it!"

Put yourself in the place of the biblical characters. I imagine what it would have been like to arrive at the garden tomb in the misty morning hours, burdened with sorrow and loss, only to find the huge stone pushed aside and the tomb empty. How would you have reacted? Jesus had predicted his death and resurrection—but they didn't get it (Luke 9:22; 18:31-34; 24:11-12). They flat out disbelieved it! Their theory was that someone, for some reason, had moved the body (John 20:11-18). For Mary, an empty tomb and an angelic report were insufficient evidence to believe in the resurrection. It wasn't until she personally saw Jesus that she believed. Contrary to what some would have you believe, these people weren't gullible. When it came to a report of resurrection, they were every bit as skeptical as we would be today. But the evidence was so overwhelming; they were forced to accept conclusions they never would have under normal circumstances (Luke 24:13-35).

The disciples' problem was that they failed to believe the Scriptures. Theirs was not a problem of the intellect, but of the heart. It was spiritual in nature. That is why Jesus said they were "slow of heart to believe." The evidence for Jesus' resurrection was there: Jesus' predictions, an empty tomb, angelic announcement, predictions of the prophets. But despite all of this evidence, these men foolishly refused to believe. The book of Proverbs in your Old Testament contrasts two types of people, the wise and the foolish. In Proverbs a "fool" is defined as someone who doesn't allow the Scriptures to shape his or her thinking and behavior. Had these men believed their Scriptures, the empty tomb and the testimony of the women would have been all the proof they needed. No doubt, after Jesus' tour through the Scriptures these two men were impressed with the evidence, but they remained unconvinced (Genesis 3:15; 22:1-14; Isaiah 53; Psalms 22 & 69). Over the next several days many others reported seeing Jesus alive. Consider this list of witnesses offered by the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

Christians have a firm foundation for our faith. And Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and life; no one comes to the Father, but through me." (John 14:6). "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

Have you received the forgiveness Jesus purchased for you at the cross? Have you come to know him as your living Savior? If not, I invite you to receive his forgiveness. You can begin that new life by personally placing your trust in Jesus Christ as your sin bearer.

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?**

[❖ This prayer is adapted from the must-read devotional classic, *The Valley of Vision*.]

“ 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. ”