

He is Risen!

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TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS**, 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

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 or Discussion

Note: For each of the following questions, refer to the **Sermon Summary** inside.

Observation—*What do I see?*

- What is Luke's stated purpose for writing his gospel (Luke 1:1–4)?
- What do the women find at the tomb and what message do the angels give them (Luke 24:1–7)?
- How do the apostles initially respond to the women's report and what insight do we gain from the disciples on the road to Emmaus which may also explain the apostles' unbelief (Luke 24:11–12, 21)?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- How do Luke's care as a historian and the disciples' skepticism give us confidence in the resurrection?
- What is the core problem behind unbelief?
- Why was Jesus' death necessary, and what theological claim does his resurrection make about him?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- Since Christianity is a “faith”, what role does historical evidence play?
- Since unbelief is primarily a “heart issue”, what response is appropriate?
- What difference should the resurrection make in your life today? Does it?
- How should we respond to the fact that Jesus is the only way to God?

Sermon Summary

Luke 24:1-35 is an account of Jesus' resurrection written by a first century master historian who set forth an accurate account of Jesus' life and ministry. Luke made his purpose in writing clear in the opening verses (Luke 1:1-4). It is crucial to understand that the Christian faith is rooted in a careful study of the facts of history. That is especially important as we consider the historical evidence for the resurrection. Of the four major world religions, only Christianity claims that its founder is still alive, having been raised from the dead. The central tenant of Christianity is belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Over the years many have sought to disprove the resurrection and thus undermine the foundation of the Christian faith.

Even Jesus' disciples were reluctant to accept what their own eyes beheld. When Jesus was arrested, His disciples abandoned Him publicly disavowing that they even knew Him. But something happened which transformed those frightened, disillusioned, cowardly men into bold witnesses who literally turned their world upside down. Early on that first Easter Sunday morning, just as the sun was rising, three women made their way through the mist to the tomb where Jesus was buried (Luke 24:1-10). Despite Jesus' own predictions, His disciples were slow to embrace the news of His resurrection. According to Luke, they flat out did not believe it (v. 11-12).

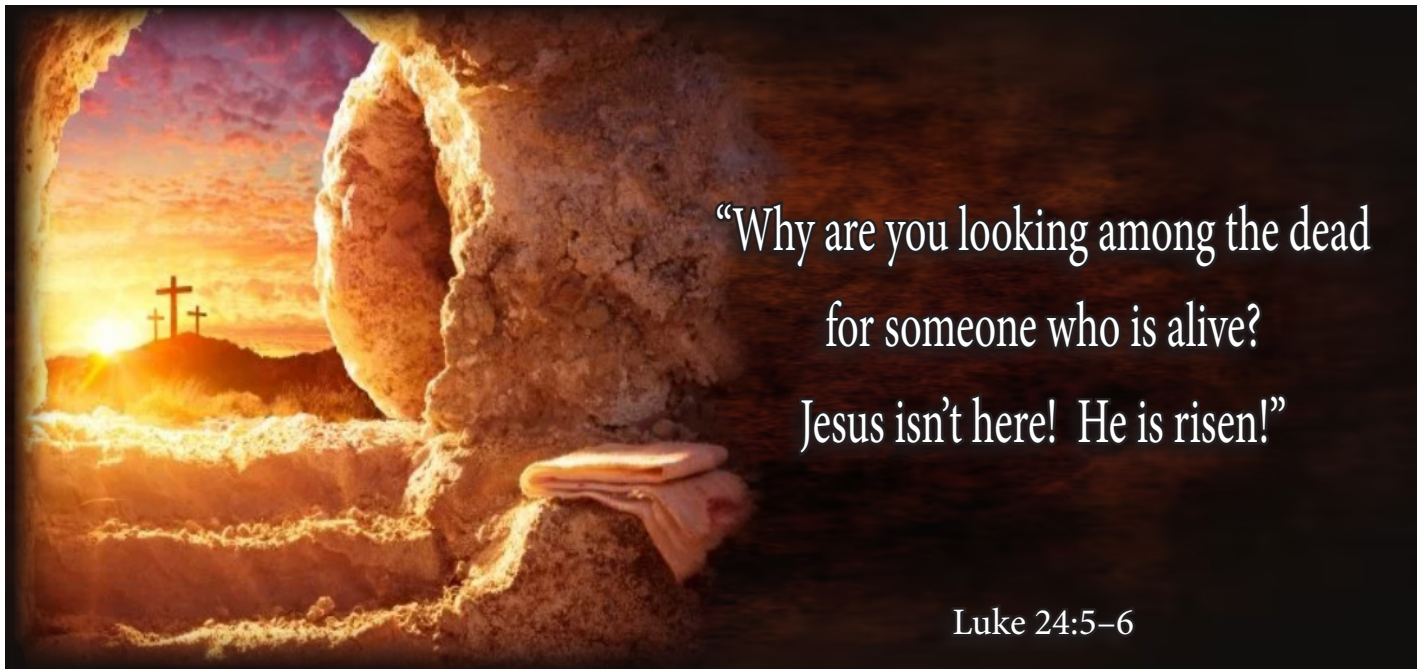
John 20:11-18 gives us the first recorded post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. For Mary, an empty tomb and an angelic report were insufficient evidence to believe in the resurrection. It wasn't until she personally saw Jesus that she believed. Luke goes on to record a second post-resurrection appearance in v. 13-35. These travelers failed to believe all that the prophets had spoken. Jesus is referring, of course, to the Jewish Scriptures, our Old Testament. They had zeroed in on those Old Testament prophesies of the Messiah which predicted His glorious reign but ignored those prophetic passages which spoke of His suffering, death and resurrection. They were like many of us today. We pick and choose which portions of the Bible we want to believe and apply. The truth is, we want to be the god of our own universe. We want to set our own standards and change them to suit our purposes. We want to be accountable to no one. We want to walk through life unchallenged. We want to determine our own reality. But a return to the Scriptures is always a return to reality.

The travelers' unbelief was not a problem of the intellect, but of the heart. The problem was spiritual in nature. That is why Jesus said they were "slow of heart to believe." At this point, Jesus once again assumed the mantle of a teacher. Beginning with Moses' writings, and continuing through the prophets, Jesus pointed out the things concerning Himself in the Scriptures. 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 (Luke 28:28-35).

That first Easter Sunday Jesus appeared to at least four people. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the two travelers on the road to Emmaus, and according to v. 34, to Simon Peter. Over the next several days many others reported seeing Jesus alive. Paul gives a list of witnesses in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. In the historical record, there are three facts with which each one of us must contend: [1] Jesus died on a Roman cross and was buried in a tomb, [2] On that first Easter morning the tomb was empty, and [3] Jesus appeared to many people alive. It was this evidence that transformed Jesus' disciples from skeptical, disillusioned cowards, into men and women who literally turned their world upside down! As incredible as Jesus' resurrection may be, the facts of history stand firmly behind it. As Christians, we have a firm foundation for our faith. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. Jesus' death was no accident; it was providentially planned; it served a very specific purpose. He died for our sins.

Our sin is an affront to His sense of justice. Therefore, God has established a penalty for sin. It is death, in both a physical and a spiritual sense. The Bible teaches that God is both loving and just. Being just, He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. Being loving, He provided a way whereby we could be forgiven and yet His justice would not be compromised. Jesus was the great God-Man. Being fully man and sinless, He could die in our place and fulfill God's requirement that a man die for sin. Being fully God, He could die for an infinite number of sins. And so, Jesus voluntarily went to the cross in our place and took on His own person the penalty for our sin. By rising from the dead, Jesus proved both His sinlessness and His deity. It is that uniqueness that allowed Him to make a very narrow claim with which each of us must grapple (John 14:6).

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time



“Why are you looking among the dead
for someone who is alive?
Jesus isn't here! He is risen!”

Luke 24:5–6

***We each have a 100% probability of dying,
so Jesus' resurrection is of the greatest personal relevance!***

Monday— Jesus' resurrection vindicates his identity and the truthfulness of his claims!

- Study Romans 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

Tuesday— Jesus' resurrection guarantees forgiveness of those who savingly believe in him.

- Study Romans 4:25 & 8:33 and Hebrews 10:12-14.

Wednesday— Jesus' resurrection is the foundation for our sanctification.

- Study Romans 6:4 & 7:6 and Colossians 3:1-10.

Thursday— Jesus' resurrection is our source of power now for Christian living.

- Study Ephesians 1:15–23 & 2:10.

Friday— Jesus' resurrection motivates us for steadfastness in mission.

Study 1 Corinthians 15:58 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2–4.

Saturday— Jesus' resurrection guarantees our future resurrection.

- Study 1 Corinthians 15:20–23 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18.