

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“THE RISEN SAVIOR’S GRACIOUS APPEARANCE”

For individual study or group discussion

The final chapter of the *Gospel of Luke* chronicles for us a series of *aha* moments that took place on that first Easter morning as the risen Christ appeared to his frightened and forgetful followers. Previously in Luke 24, verses 1-12 mention the women who came to the tomb in the early morning hours of dawn and were “perplexed” to find Jesus’ tomb empty. Verses 13-35 chronicle the conversation our risen Lord had with the two men on the road to Emmaus, and how their hearts were “slow to believe.” While those closest to Christ should have been the ones storing up his promises in their hearts, we find that forgetfulness was a common characteristic among the followers of Christ. In today’s passage we learn how the risen Savior graciously appeared to his troubled disciples, reminding them of his peace, comfort, truth, and mission.

- **Peace:** After his resurrection, the first words Jesus spoke to his fearful disciples were “Peace to you” (v. 36). Read John 14:25-31. In John’s account of the night of Christ’s betrayal, Jesus told his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion that he wanted them to have “my peace.” Jesus obediently went to the cross in order to secure peace with God, so that his disciples could know the peace of God. What did Jesus mean when he said, “My peace I give to you”? Discuss the implications of the disciples having had this conversation with Jesus before his death (see John 14) and where they are now in Luke 24. Why is it important to remember (Hebrews 2:1-4)? How did Christ bring peace and what impact does it have for the church (Ephesians 2:14-22)?
- **Comfort:** In verses 37-43 we see Jesus comforting his disciples with the assurance of his physical presence. The word comfort in Greek comes from *paraklesis* and is translated consolation, solace, even strength. Refer back to Luke 2:25 when we were introduced to Simeon in the temple. He is described as awaiting the “consolation of Israel.” Note how Jesus embodied that consolation as he further helped his disciples in their struggle to believe (vv. 38-39). Read Isaiah 25:8-9, 40:1-5, 49:13. Simeon knew there would come a day when the Servant of the Lord, prophesied in Isaiah, would arrive and bring salvation to his people. And here in verses 37-43 the “consolation of Israel” stood before his disciples with the fresh scars from his victory over death, eating in their presence. How would this have comforted them?
- **Truth:** While the disciples were thinking, “It’s too good to be true!” (v. 41), Jesus prepared a history lesson. He still needed to connect the dots for them. Resting their faith on the miracle of Jesus’ resurrection would not be sufficient, so Jesus reminded them of his words and “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (vv. 44-47). Refer back to the beginning of Luke 24. Read the previous two accounts of Jesus’ Easter appearances. What did the angels at the tomb say to the women (vv. 6-7)? At what point did the women understand (v. 8)? Read verses 13-35. What did Jesus say to Cleopas and his companion while traveling with them on the Emmaus Road (vv. 25-27). At what point did the men understand (v. 31)? Read Psalm 103:1-5. Remembering God’s works and word is a consistent theme in the Old Testament. What happens when God’s people forget his truth? (Deut. 8:11-20)
- **Mission:** Jesus’ resurrection and subsequent appearances to his disciples were meant not only to comfort them, but also to commission them (vv. 47-49). Jesus’ mission and message are central to the expansion of the Kingdom of God, as his people will be “a light for the nations” (Isaiah 49:5-6). The Great Commission, recorded in Matthew 28:16-20 emphasizes the role of God’s people as emissaries who will carry the Kingdom message forward into the world, making the nations Christ’s disciples (v. 19). The Kingdom of God is an essential part of Jesus’ redemptive mission (cf. Daniel 7:13-14). According to Psalm 22:27-31, as the mission and message of the Kingdom of God is proclaimed, what will be the results?

DATE: April 17, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: Easter

PASSAGE: Luke 24:36-49

Family Dinner Table

Eucatastrophe

English author and academic J.R.R. Tolkien coined the term *eucatastrophe* to describe a good turn of events in a story. In an essay he wrote in 1938, Tolkien said: “*The consolation of fairy-stories, the joy of the happy ending: or more correctly of the good catastrophe, the sudden joyous ‘turn’, it is a sudden and miraculous grace: never to be counted on to recur. It is the mark of a good fairy-story, of the higher or more complete kind, that however wild its events, however fantastic or terrible the adventures, it can give to child or man that hears it, when the ‘turn’ comes, a catch of the breath, a beat and lifting of the heart, near to (or indeed accompanied by) tears, as keen as that given by any form of literary art, and having a peculiar quality.*”¹ The resurrection of Jesus was a *eucatastrophe* in Tolkien’s fullest sense of the word. According to Tolkien, “*The resurrection is the greatest ‘eucatastrophe’ possible in the greatest Fairy Story—and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled*”² Let us rejoice that the decisive battle against sin and Satan and sickness and death has been fought and won by the risen Savior in his death and resurrection. ***Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!***

- Spend time this Easter Sunday remembering Jesus’ promises to you and your family, and discuss ways to share the message with others.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

[Amani ya Juu Chattanooga](#)

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

April and Daniel, supported missionary partners, who serve in a sensitive area through developing and training leadership and translation work.

¹Tolkien, J. R. R. “On Fairy Stories.” <https://coolcalvary.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/on-fairy-stories1.Pdf>, <https://coolcalvary.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/on-fairy-stories1.pdf>.

²Tolkien, J. R. R., edited by Carpenter, Humphrey and Tolkien, Christopher. *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien: Letter 89*. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. NY New York. 1981. 100-101