

DOES HIS RESURRECTION IMPACT YOU TODAY?

Text: Luke 24:1-53

Last week we celebrated Resurrection Sunday and there were more people here than I can remember in a long while. I am blessed to work with several people who profess hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and the story was the same at all the assemblies they attend. More people than usual, packed houses, new faces and so on. The thought occurred to me that many people, maybe even most people in our part of the country, believe at least mentally that Jesus Christ arose from the dead. But it's not the kind of belief that brings them back to the house of God the Sunday after. They may never really think anything of Christ until next year at this same time if we're blessed to see it.

Full disclosure: I am in no way angry with these people and the point of this message is not to rip on them because I'm at service every week. I'm glad for every face that walks through the doors and sits on the pews even if it is once or twice a year for this reason; you never know what Jesus may do in their lives on the one time they decide to come. That may be the service that sees them born again and changed. That may be the service that a prodigal comes home, repents, and gets their relationship with the Father straight. Do you know how many young men have been saved because the only reason they went to church was to sit next to their girlfriends, but the Holy Ghost had other plans? I don't care that some people only go to church on Easter to make their loved ones happy or take their children to an Easter egg hunt. It's an opportunity for them to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ!

The chapter we read today was all about what happened on the day that Jesus Christ came out of the tomb. This is not all that happened, but we see that it had a major impact on these people. It affected them for the rest of their lives. A good question for everyone to ask themselves is "Does his resurrection impact me every day, or just on one Sunday a year? There is a gigantic difference between believing that a man named Jesus died, was buried and came back to life three days later and having a personal encounter with the living Christ that came out of that grave! The people in this chapter had real life personal encounters with the resurrected Jesus Christ that made a lifelong impression on them! I said all of that to say this: The reason that so many fill the houses of worship on one day a year only is because while they believe in their minds that Jesus arose from the dead, the people that come back time after time and worship and serve and give and love is because they have had a personal encounter with the living LORD!

How the risen Christ can impact you today:

- **He encourages the discouraged** – The text starts with the women that came to anoint the dead body of Jesus Christ. They were present at the crucifixion, and they were devastated by that sight. Their hearts were broken and their hopes shattered. The Messiah they loved, followed and served was broken beyond recognition on the cross of Calvary. They went home after they saw where he was laid and waited till the sabbath was past to come back to the tomb. They came very early and found the stone removed and the tomb empty. God had angels with good news waiting on them. **Matthew 28:8-10** And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.
- **He turns people around who are going the wrong way** – He secretly joins two sad and depressed disciples on the road to Emmaus. Emmaus is a village about 7 miles away from Jerusalem. When the Lord joins them, he asks them why they are so sad. They tell him about what has happened there concerning Jesus of Nazareth. How that his ministry was mighty and how their leaders had delivered him to be put to death. They tell him of their hopes for what they wanted him to do. They didn't understand the cross, they didn't understand the scriptures that foretold it and the purpose of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Christ. All they had in mind was for Jesus to deliver Israel immediately from Rome and restore the kingdom to Israel like it was in the Old Testament. They tell him that they had heard the testimony of the women, but it wasn't enough to persuade them. They are leaving Jerusalem because they are disappointed. They left the other disciples behind, and they are going down this road because they are quitting! But a 7-mile Bible study with the Lord Jesus set their souls on fire. He opened their understanding to what the scriptures meant so they could see that Jesus had accomplished everything he was supposed to. The cross was not a tragedy; it was a triumph. He went into their house, served them bread and blessed it. As soon as they knew who he was, he vanished out of their sight and they went right back to the place and the people they had quit on earlier that day.
- **He forgives failures** – Everybody that had experiences with Christ that day are assembled together and are telling each other about their encounters with the Lord. When the two get back from Emmaus they tell them what happened and this statement is made **Luke 24:34** Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. The one encounter that we know took place according to scripture but was left out of scripture was a personal meeting between Christ and Peter. Peter had just failed the Lord in the most public way just a few days ago. During the trial at

the High Priest's palace, Simon Peter denied knowing the Lord three distinct times by swearing and cursing. After the third time, the rooster crowed and Jesus turned and looked at Peter adding to his shame. The Bible says that Peter went out and wept bitterly. He thought that he had done irreversible damage and disqualified himself from ever following Christ or serving him. The angel at the tomb gave a specific instruction to the women that came **Mark 16:7** But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 1 Corinthians 15:5 confirms that the Lord appeared to Peter separately and specifically **1 Corinthians 15:5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: *Jesus appeared to them again in John 21 early in the morning after a night of failed fishing. He had breakfast prepared for them when they came to shore and there by the fire, Jesus recommissioned Peter with three questions and three commands "Do you love me?" "Feed my sheep"*

The chapter ends this way for all these people: Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. *His resurrection impacted them to continually worship, rejoice, assemble together, serve and praise God. Does his resurrection impact you today?*