

Session 2

THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW

Luke 24:13-35 (Emphasis v. 25-27)

Memory Verse

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?”

– LUKE 24:31-32, CSB

The Next Thing You Know

THEOLOGICAL THEME: The Scriptures point to the person and work of Jesus Christ from beginning to end. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is a Christocentric book.

❓ Have you ever tried to find the source of a river or stream?

❓ What is the best way to accomplish that goal? How can you figure out where it starts?

The most logical means to find the source of a stream is to follow the stream itself, for the stream begins at and flows away from the source. The stream is both evidence of and the fruit of the fountain. The stream doesn't make the fountain, but the fountain does, in fact, make the stream exist.

Just so, the Christian's stream of good works is evidence of a fountain. In the life of all truly born again Christians, there is a stream of sanctification. That is, there is a stream of good works, a changed life, new affections, repentance, and faith. By following the stream we will come at last to the fountain. The springhead of sanctification in the life of a Christian is justification. When God declares a person not guilty through the person and work of Jesus Christ, then God begins a good work in them and He is faithful to bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6).


One of those good works present in the life of all who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb is the lifelong testimony about Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. Those who have been saved from sin, death, and hell don't keep the good news of salvation to themselves. They can't because, in the mysterious work of new birth, God gives the Christian a selfless love for those around them and desire to share the gospel. That's not to say that someone who struggles to share his or her faith isn't a Christian. A person who is not affected by the lost condition of others, however, has reason to question whether or not he or she is truly in Christ. It may be that they haven't truly understood the gospel.

Session Summary

In Acts 1:8, Jesus told His followers, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The command is clear, but the particulars of that task aren't spelled out in this verse. However, Christians aren't left without guidance in the area of evangelism. Jesus provided an example recorded by Luke. Let's look at this passage together and consider how we might apply it today.

1. The Redemptive Story (Luke 24:13-26)

As Jesus walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, He listened to their questions and doubts about what to make of all that had happened in Jerusalem. Jesus, of course, already knew all that had happened and why, but the disciples were kept from realizing that they were actually speaking with Christ.

 What did Jesus say in verse 25? How did He address the disciples? Is this surprising to you? Why might Jesus have addressed them this way?

He said, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" This approach to sharing the gospel is a surprise in our modern context. Christians are encouraged to do all that they can to avoid giving offense to people. Some people even recommend avoiding words like "sin," "wrath," or "blood" because it may be a turn off to

some people. The fact of the matter is that Jesus, Paul, and others were not shy about telling people the truth, even when it had the potential of hurting their feelings. Jesus called these two disciples foolish and slow to believe because they were. How they responded to His assessment was up to them. The church is strengthened and unified by bold, clear, humble, and biblical preaching and teaching from her leaders. The last thing the blood-bought saints of God need are leaders who are regulated by their fear of man rather than their fear of God and His Word. The church needs faithful shepherds who will tell the truth, even when it is unpopular.

They were foolish because they knew all that the prophets had spoken concerning the Messiah and they were still chattering breathlessly about how strange and confusing all that had happened was. As one example, Isaiah says:

*Yet he himself bore our sicknesses,
and he carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced because of our rebellion,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him,
and we are healed by his wounds.*

-Isaiah 53:3-4

It is foolish to read these words and not see the work of Christ as a direct fulfillment of them. The prophets not only decried the sin of Israel and the impending judgment, but they also announced the coming of One who would be a light to the Gentiles and the hope of the nations.



In what way is the Bible one unified story of the redemptive work of God in Christ Jesus?

While the Bible may seem at times like a disjointed collection of ancient writings, it isn't. Rather, the Bible is a single book with a single story featuring a single central character, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is the story of the fall of man and God's

formation of a nation that would both welcome and announce the Messiah when He arrived. The New Testament is the story of the coming of the Messiah, the establishment of His Church, and the spread of the Church across the globe. The Bible is the story of God's grace and mercy toward His rebellious creation. The pinnacle of His love for them is in the person and work of Christ.

? Application: How prone are you to fear telling people the truth about salvation found in Christ because you may offend them? Why is it more loving to tell someone offensive truth than to withhold it?

2. The Importance of Teachers (Luke 24:27)

We should be careful not to overlook an important element of this account. The disciples were confused about what was going on, but it wasn't for lack of knowledge. They had the Old Testament Scriptures and they knew them well. They also had heard the teachings of Christ throughout His ministry. Yet, despite all of that information, they were still confused.

? What made the difference for these disciples in their understanding of what was going on?

Luke reported that, "Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures." Jesus taught them. They needed someone to open the Scriptures up to them and help them to understand. Teaching is a critical part of evangelism and discipleship. When a Christian shares the gospel with someone, they are essentially teaching a person the basic elements of the nature of God, the sinfulness of man, and God's solution for sin. Then, they call the person to respond to that information. The same process takes place in discipleship in a variety of areas. Jesus stated this aspect explicitly in the Great Commission in Matthew 28. Jesus said that Christians should teach the

nations “to observe all that I have commanded you.” This is what Christians commonly call “discipleship.” So, when we read the Great Commission it is clear that Jesus’ command is to be faithful in both evangelism and discipleship. Christians ought to be concerned for and labor toward the justification of sinners and the sanctification of the saints.

? In what sense is every Christian called to be a teacher? In what sense are some called to teach in different ways?

All Christians are called to teach and explain the gospel to the lost. This is not a special calling placed on only a select few Christians; it is a command for all those who are in Christ. However, God has called some people to serve as teachers within the church. This work is limited to those who are recognized as both qualified and equipped. This is a weighty role and those who are teachers within the church will be held to account. They ought to approach their task with fear and trembling. The Bible says, “Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment” (Jas. 3:1).

The most important teachers within the church are the pastors. Their primary role is prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6). The ministry of the Word is a teaching role and ought to be the primary activity of pastors among members of the church. Pastors who neglect their primary roles of prayer and ministry of the Word should repent and return to the biblical role that has been given to them. Further, not everyone is permitted to be a pastor. Paul made it clear to Timothy and Titus that there are certain requirements that a pastor should meet. To summarize, biblical pastors are saved, mature, above reproach, apt to teach, and male (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1). While the role of teaching in the church, isn’t limited to only the pastors, pastors should oversee the teaching throughout the church.

? Application: When was the last time that you taught the gospel to an unbeliever? What happened? How did they respond?

3. The Scriptures Point to Christ (Luke 24:27-35)

There is another aspect of verse 27 that we should explore a bit more. Luke wrote, “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.”



How was Jesus’ teaching in these verses a model for all of His followers?

Jesus didn’t bring His own ideas and conclusions to the two disciples, though He would have been completely justified given that He was God in flesh. His example speaks volumes to us today. We cannot overstate the importance of God’s Word in the lives of those who have been redeemed by Christ. Moreover, the Word of God is powerful to illuminate the minds of those who do not know Christ.

The Bible nourishes (Matt. 4:4), purifies (Jer. 23:29), and exposes (Eph. 6:17). Paul wrote, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The primacy of God’s Word has been central to faithful churches and believers throughout Christian history. The devout men who framed the 1689 London Baptist confession of faith began it by saying, “The Holy Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”



Why do you think that it is important that God has preserved His Word for us in written form?

It is a disconcerting thing to imagine a scenario in which we couldn't be sure of what God has said. If we had to rely on oral history that would surely differ widely from culture to culture, language to language, and teacher to teacher, then we would have no assurance that what we were hearing was true. We would live unsettled, unanchored lives. Many people would be led astray by error because they wouldn't have an infallible standard by which to test teaching.

God's written Word protects us from the deception of our own hearts, the malice of Satan, and the lure of the world. Furthermore, it serves to preserve and propagate the truth so that the church may be established and comforted.

This is an important question for Christians across the world today. We have access to more Christian books, music, conferences, websites, preachers, and other sorts of messages than ever in the history of the church. With so many voices competing for our attention it's more critical than ever to have a proper view on the place of Scripture in the Christian life.

We believe in the sufficiency of Scripture. This means that Scripture is sufficient to meet every need of the human soul. Scripture contains everything necessary for one's spiritual life. Scripture is comprehensive in that it fully addresses all our spiritual needs. This means that if we had no other Christian book, never attended a conference, were cut off from all Christian radio, and had no access to our favorite online Christian content but we had the Scriptures, then we would have all that we needed to live a fully obedient, joyful, and vibrant Christian life. Only Scripture is necessary. When we have it we have everything. When we lose it, we have nothing.


The sufficiency of Scripture doesn't mean that all other Christian helps must be avoided. Rather it means that they aren't necessary and shouldn't be given too high of a place in our spiritual lives. They are not in the same category of Scripture. All other messages must be held to the standard of Scripture.





Application: Do you see the Scripture as enough to meet every need of your soul? Or do you hunger after other avenues of spiritual nourishment? How might you grow in valuing Scripture?

Conclusion

After Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, He spent some time among His disciples before His ascension to heaven. His final acts and words on earth had everything to do with equipping Christians and commissioning them for the task that would define the church until His return. This task still defines the church today.

 How are you encouraged or challenged to recognize that the Bible is one story about Jesus?

 How can we encourage one another to grow in our love for Scripture on a daily basis?

 How might a growing love for and commitment to the Bible help you in having gospel conversations with those around you?

CHRIST CONNECTION: The Scriptures first allude to the coming Messiah in Genesis 3:15 after Adam and Eve rebelled against God. From that point on all of history was rushing toward the Rescuer who would come and deliver people from bondage to sin and the devil.

MISSIONAL APPLICATION: The Christian faith doesn't spread without the faithful obedience of those who have received new life in Christ.



FOR NEXT WEEK

The First Thing You Share

Main Passages

- Luke 24:13-35 (emphasis vv. 28-35)

Session Outline

1. What Is Hospitality? (Luke 24:28-29)
2. To Whom Is Hospitality Directed? (Luke 24:30-32)
3. How Is Hospitality Carried Out? (Luke 24:33-35)

Memorize

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

- Luke 24:25-26

Daily Readings

- Monday - Luke 24:25-27
- Tuesday - Genesis 3:15
- Wednesday - Genesis 12:1-3
- Thursday - Numbers 21:9
- Friday - 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- Saturday - Isaiah 53:1-6