

Sunday morning August 16th 2015 at CBC
Sermon outline: Luke 24
Easter revisited

STRUCTURE

Apart from the morning/evening division ...

The dialogue/conversations reflect either heaven or earth. Further, the representatives of earth – the disciples who are fallen human beings, are confused and asking questions or expressing doubts ...

For example: Luke 24:4-5; Luke 24:11-12

... while the representatives of heaven – the angels and Jesus – are answering the questions and resolving the doubts.

For example: Luke 24:5; Luke 24:25; Luke 24:45

[1] WE SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS IF WE THINK OF HIM ONLY AS A HUMAN BEING WITH THE SAME LIMITATIONS AS US

It is very clear from the details in Luke 24 that on that Sunday morning, and indeed for much of the day, the disciples were thinking of Jesus in the same terms as they would think of anyone else whom they knew.

[a] The disciples at the tomb

They had seen Jesus die and they did not expect to find anything other than a dead body. They were much more

familiar with death, much nearer to it, in their culture than we are in ours. So having seen Jesus die, they had no expectation that he would live again.

[b] The disciples on the road

They understood Jesus to be 'a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.' [v19] But his death seemed to have put an end to their hopes. 'We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.' [v21].

[c] The disciples in the room

Jesus appears in his resurrection body. You would think that this would be utterly convincing proof! But they envisage him as some kind of disembodied spirit, but no more than that.

[2] WE SHALL ONLY UNDERSTAND THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS IF WE ACCEPT THE INTERPRETATION THAT GOD HIMSELF HAS GIVEN

Nothing could be clearer in Luke 24 than that we are being told what the death and resurrection of Jesus mean.

[a] they were essential to the plan of God

You cannot mistake the emphasis in this chapter:

See Luke 24:7; Luke 24:26; Luke 24:44; Luke 24:46

[b] they were a fulfillment of the promise of God

Not only were these events essential, they were promised and predicted. The whole thrust of the emphasis on the necessity of the death and resurrection of Jesus rests on the fact they

were events promised and predicted by God through his prophets in earlier days. Compare Isaiah 53.

[c] they were the door to the love of God

We don't have to use our imaginations to construct an interpretation of the death and resurrection of Jesus! We have been given the meaning:

Luke 24:45-48

*45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: **The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** 48 You are witnesses of these things.*

Compare: John 3:14-16

The death and resurrection of Jesus enable the world to hear about the need for repentance and the promise of forgiveness to all who repent of their sins.

[3] WHAT SHOULD THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS THEREFORE MEAN FOR US TODAY?

[a] it is essential that we, as individuals, should respond personally

God did not send Jesus into the world for some trivial matter. If it was essential to his purposes that Jesus should die and be resurrected, if he announced in advance, if it is the way to forgiveness and peace with God, it is essential that we should respond.

[b] it is essential that we, as churches, should proclaim confidently

The interpretation of the death and resurrection of Jesus is always the ultimate spiritual battleground. It is here that we must find our voice, and speak out God's own interpretation of the events.

We must never lose sight of the importance of asserting the interpretation of the death and resurrection of Jesus that we find in scripture.

CONCLUSION

What does the world most need to hear?

Never has the world more needed to hear about the love of God expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ than it does today

Has his death and resurrection changed your life?

If and when it has, will you join in the great task of sharing that message with a very needy world?