

Theme: All of the Gospels present Jesus as the Risen Lord of all, and they call all people to become His disciples.

I. The Importance of the Ending

- A. Linda and I read 1984 - opposite reactions
- B. A depressing ending - as Orwell wanted it
- C. The ending carried his message of dire warning
- D. The ending usually tells the central meaning
- E. How does the story of Jesus end in the Gospels?
- F. Each has told the story in their own way, emphasizing different details
- G. How will they end?

II. The Background To the Story

- A. We followed Jesus through His life in the four Gospels
 - 1. We have seen His miraculous conception and amazing birth
 - 2. We have heard His words as He taught the crowds and His disciples
 - 3. We have “watched” as He did miracles
 - 4. We rejoiced as He triumphantly entered Jerusalem
- B. Good Friday - everything seemingly goes horribly wrong
 - 1. Jesus is betrayed by a close friend to those who hate Him
 - 2. The crowd that had hailed Him as King turns on Him
 - 3. Forsaken by His disciples He dies with only a few women and John nearby

- 4. He is placed in the tomb - all seems lost

C. How will this story end?

III. Easter - Christ the Lord Is Risen

- A. The women come to the tomb - and He is gone!
On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:1–3
 - 1. They come expecting to put spices on His corpse
 - 2. The tomb is moved - and they think He will be inside
 - 3. They go in - but the body is gone!
- B. The resurrection of Christ is the work of God
 - 1. The women do not expect it
but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ **While they were wondering about this**, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”** ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:3–6
 - a. The women fully expect to find His dead body
 - b. Even when tomb is empty they do not understand
 - c. Angels ? - why looking for living among the dead?
 - 1. This shows women’s lack of understanding
 - 2. Reminds one of Gabriel with Zechariah in Luke 1
 - d. Angels have to tell them “He is risen!”

2. The disciples refuse to believe it at first

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Luke 24:9–11

- a. The women tell them He is risen - the body is gone
- b. Probably also cultural stigma about women - not reliable witnesses
- c. But they are God's chosen witnesses - He is turning the world upside down!
- d. Women - "He is risen - angels told us so!"
- e. Disciples still did not believe - seemed like nonsense

3. Peter goes to empty tomb - and still does not get it!

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Luke 24:12

- a. He runs to the tomb - it is empty!
- b. He sees the grave clothes - but no body
- c. Yet, he still is trying to figure out what happened!

4. In spite of the fact Jesus & Scripture had told them

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'⁸ Then they remembered his words. Luke 24:6–8

- a. Jesus had told them this many times
- b. The Scripture foretold this (see Luke 24:44-46)
- c. Only after they are reminded do they see
- d. Same thing with Emmaus road, other disciples

C. Why this is important to the story

1. The disciples did not do this - they had no clue

- a. This has been a constant claim to this day
- b. Requires intellectual suicide - against all evidence
- c. Disciples were clueless and afraid

2. This was the work of the Sovereign Lord

- a. Once again we tried to destroy the beautiful story
- b. But God overrules and raises Jesus from the dead

3. This had to happen - so we might be saved

'The Son of Man **must be** delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Luke 24:7

- a. Jesus said the **MUST** happen - no option
- b. Jesus did not need to die and be raised - we need it
- c. This was done for us and our salvation
- d. This is the only way the story could end if we were to be saved

IV. Christ - The Risen Lord of All

A. The Great Commission - the Story continues!

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18–20

1. As the Risen Lord, Jesus has all authority!

- a. The Son of Man has fulfilled our call and been given full authority
- b. The Lion rules as King of all
- c. The God-Man sits on the Throne of the Universe

2. As the Risen Lord, Jesus calls everyone to be His disciple

- a. We are called to believe & embrace the Risen Lord
- b. We are called to a lifetime of discipleship
- c. This begins with baptism and continues in learning and obeying His Word

3. As the Risen Lord, He is still with us

- a. He has not abandoned us!
- b. He walks with us - in good times and bad
- c. Nothing can separate us from our Risen Lord!

B. Our continuing role in the story

1. We are invited to be followers of Jesus

a. The King calls us to be His willing subjects

b. The Teacher calls us to be His disciples

2. We are invited to call others to be followers of Jesus

a. We are called to tell others about Jesus

b. We are called to disciple others in the ways of the kingdom

c. Jesus is with us to empower us in this task

V. Applying the Word

A. Have you embraced the Risen Lord of all?

1. The historical record is clear - Jesus was crucified, buried, and risen!
2. How do you respond to the Risen Lord?
3. He is calling everyone of us to be His disciples?
4. Answer the call today!

B. Answering the call - water baptism

1. Two young people are answering the call today
2. Sebastian Lehmann and Alessandra LaRose

Christ - The Risen Lord of All

Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:18-20

April 5, 2015

Water Baptism

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Easter, resurrection, salvation and deliverance, christology, Kingdom of God, great commission

20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

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