



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

Not the End of the Story!

Luke 24:33-53

Message #73 of 73 – S868

Sermon given on November 3, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Not the End of the Story!

Luke 24:33-53

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 24**
- We conclude a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- A few years ago, the makers of the movies based off the Marvel comic books added a scene in the credits at the end of the movies
- It was short clip, a teaser – statement – the movie is over, but the story isn't – there is more to come
- We have been looking at the life of Jesus through the gospel of Luke
- And today we come to the last message in this series
- But it is not the end of the story
- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Not the End of the Story!**
- The disciples and the others who have been with Jesus have been on an emotional roller coaster
- Just over a week earlier they were with Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey
- Elated – they thought that maybe now Jesus would take His place as king of Israel
- The following week was filled with activity
- Thursday, they shared the Passover meal – highly symbolic of what was coming
- Then came the betrayal, the trials, the beatings, and on Friday morning Jesus was crucified
- That afternoon Jesus gave up His spirit and died
- When His lifeless body was placed in the tomb, His disciples and friends were certain the story was over
- And then, on Sunday morning, the tomb is empty

- And like one of those clips at the end of a Marvel movie, they were left with more questions than answers
- And then Jesus appears to two men on the road to Emmaus
- At first Jesus' identity is hidden from them
- But then, as Jesus is breaking bread, Jesus opens their eyes to see Him
- But only for a moment, and then He is gone
- Suddenly these two realize that the story is not over
- **Luke 24:33-35**
- Jesus appeared to a number of people on that Sunday
- All of those appearances are important but the one that stands out to me is His appearance to Peter
- Remember, on the night Jesus was betrayed Peter denied knowing Christ three times
- I would love to know what Jesus said to Peter then
- We know that Jesus wasn't finished with Peter -used him mightily
- This is a word of encouragement for anyone who may have felt you have let the Lord down in some way – He is not done with you either
- **Luke 24:36-37**
- Imagine the scene – the disciples, the two from Emmaus, some of the women
- And then suddenly Jesus appears out of thin air
- I have witnessed this effect – I walk into the room – Kelly jumps like I appeared out of thin air
- They are not sure about what they are seeing – looks like Jesus, but He never did that before
- **Luke 24:38-40**
- Jesus has been raised from the dead – not the first who had been raised from the dead – Jesus raised many Himself
- Turn to **1 Corinthians 15**
- But He was different from all the others – all others were raised back to the same kind of life they had before – would eventually die again
- Not so with Jesus
- **1 Corinthians 15:42b-46**
- Jesus was resurrected with a new body

- We refer to it as a glorified body – incorruptible – immortal – not bound by the laws of the natural world
- Turn back to **Luke 24**
- This will be the same kind of body that every true believer will be resurrected into – kind of exciting
- But there is something interesting about Jesus’ body
- He tells them to look at his hands and feet
- He is referring specifically to the marks from the nails of His crucifixion
- He would later tell Thomas to stick his hand into the wound in His side where the Roman soldier had stuck a spear to make sure He was dead
- Jesus will forever bear the marks of His sacrifice for our sin, even in heaven
- That is what John saw in **Revelation 5:5-6a**

But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...

- Every time we see Jesus in heaven we will be reminded of the great price that was paid to get us there and of God’s great love **Romans 5:8**

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- They needed a little more convincing
- **Luke 24:41-43**
- It was too good to be true
- **Luke 24:44-48**
- Everything happened exactly the way the Scriptures said they would
- That is important to each of us
- Because everything the Bible said about Jesus happened the way the Bible said it would, we can trust what the Bible says about our lives too **2 Corinthians 1:20**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

- If the Bible promises something, you can build your life on it, cling to it, hope in it, trust in it – you just need to believe it!

- Verse 47 is like the Great Commission found in **Matthew 28:18-20**
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
- One of the things we often see lacking in so-called gospel preaching is ‘repentance and remission of sins’
- I say so-called because the gospel message is not the good news unless it includes turning from our sins and being forgiven
- One of the unfortunate trends in modern preaching is a focus on social justice
- Our culture idolizes social justice warriors – people fighting to right the wrongs of society
- There are terrible injustices in this world – and we should try to do something about it
- But we can’t do it by ignoring the greatest injustice of all
- God created mankind to be the objects of His grace and love
- There is nothing more unjust in this world than to reject God’s grace, love, and mercy which He offers freely through His Son
- That is the true gospel message – true social justice flows through the gospel – through people who have repented and experienced God’s forgiveness and who are walking in His grace
- Back to our text – about 40 days pass between verses 48 and 49
- **Luke 24:49**
- The ‘Promise’ is the Holy Spirit **John 14:16-17a**
I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth...
- Jesus is about to go away, but He promises not to leave them without the Helper they will need
- He also instructs them to wait in Jerusalem
- Luke, the human writer of this gospel also penned the book we know as Acts, or The Acts of the Apostles
- There, he elaborated on this verse **Acts 1:4-5**
And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- About ten days later, in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descended upon about 120 disciples – drew a massive group – Peter preached – about 3,000 saved
- What Jesus promised to the disciples is promised to all believers - the power of God, the Holy Spirit in your life
- But sadly, we don't see that power manifesting as much as we should
- You see, the power of the Holy Spirit only shows up when a believer is walking in faith beyond where their own strength and power have ended
- If you want to see more of the power of God in your own life – got to try to go beyond your strength, knowledge, ability
- You need to be out in the deep water of faith to see God's power at work
- **Luke 24:50-51**
- We refer to this event as the Ascension of Christ
- Jesus returned to heaven and is seated at the place of highest authority at the right hand of God Almighty
- He is not sitting idly – praying for us – preparing a place for us
- And someday He will come back for us
- The disciples watched Jesus ascend and maybe we will be the generation that sees Him come back for His church – I hope so!
- Their response to this scene ought to be the response of every believer
- **Luke 24:52-53**
- For all that Jesus and God the Father have done for each of us we ought to worship, praise and bless His name **Hebrews 13:15**
Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
- Jesus is in heaven, but this is not the end of the story
- Every day and in every true believer Jesus is writing more of His story
- It is a story of love, grace, and mercy
- It is a story of repentance and forgiveness of sins
- It is a story of power and faith
- It is a good story even though some of the chapters are hard and painful
- All our stories will be different, but they all have the same ending

- Jesus will come back someday and give everyone who believed in Him a perfect glorified body and then He will take us all to heaven to be with Him forever
- This life is not the end of the story
- And like those clips at the end of Marvel's movies, we can't be sure what the next part of the story is going to be like – but it looks very exciting
- And believing that we should worship Christ and praise and bless God in His name until then
- **Pray!**