



Words of Life!

Luke 24:1-12

Sermon given on April 1, 2018

Calvary Chapel French Valley

Resurrection Sunday Service

@ FRM

Pastor Rick Lancaster

WORDS OF LIFE!

Luke 24:1-12

Greeting

- Welcome to Calvary Chapel French Valley
- My name is Rick, one of the pastors here
- We are going to be looking at a couple of places in the Bible
- If you would like to follow along and need a Bible they are on the tables around the room
- If there is not one close to you, raise your hand and one of the guys will bring you one
- Turn in the Bible to **Luke 24**
- The page number of the text we are looking at is up on the screen
- Today is commonly referred to as Easter or Easter Sunday
- There is a fair amount of debate, both historically and within the church about the use of that name
- As a church we prefer to call it Resurrection Sunday
- We prefer that name because it puts to focus on the reason why we celebrate this date
- Don't worry, we won't excommunicate you if you prefer to call it Easter – just remember why it is important
- As a communicator, I believe that words are important
- Using the right words, at the right time, and in the right way can be very powerful, encouraging, and life-giving **Proverbs 25:11**

A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in settings of silver.

- Using the wrong words, or saying them in the wrong way, or at the wrong time can be very destructive **James 3:6**

And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- Words have the power to wound or to heal
- They have the power to tear apart or bring together
- The Bible teaches that words are an evidence of what is inside of us
Proverbs 15:2

The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

- Words are important – they either bring life or they drain life
- I don't know about you, but I would much rather be around people whose words bring life, rather than those whose words drain life out of me
- This morning we are going to look at the account in Luke's gospel of the Sunday morning after Jesus was crucified and died on the cross
- Let's pray and then get into this morning's text
- **Pray!**

Teaching

- **Words of Life!**
- A little background before we get into the text
- The Bible tells us that Jesus came to this world in an unprecedented way – He left His lofty place in heaven and was born to a virgin named Mary
- At about the age of thirty He started traveling around Israel teaching and doing the impossible, healing people of every disease and injury, even raising several people from the dead
- Most people liked and respected Jesus for what he said and for the amazing things He was doing
- But the religious guys had a real problem with Jesus, and they became jealous of Him because more and more people were going to Jesus instead of following them
- After three years they found their chance when one of Jesus' own disciples agreed to betray Jesus to them
- Late on a Thursday night they arrested Jesus, bound Him and led Him away to the religious court where He was falsely accused, mocked, beaten, and condemned to die
- But because of the Roman occupation they couldn't execute Him
- So, the next morning, they took Him to the Roman governor Pilate and asked him to do it – which he eventually agreed to do, but not before the Roman soldiers mocked, beat, and scourged Him
- Unrecognizable and barely able to walk Jesus was led away and crucified, and by early afternoon on Friday died on the cross
- Jesus' enemies thought they defeated Him, but they unknowingly are doing exactly what God said they would do **1 Corinthians 15:3**

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...

- Right from the earliest pages of the Bible, God inspired writers to describe the events we are celebrating hundreds to thousands of years before they happened
- Jesus died on that Friday afternoon, and before dark He was placed in tomb – But that was not the end of the story
- **Luke 24:1-2**
- **Insert picture ‘Empty Tomb’**
- These tombs were typically carved into the limestone around Jerusalem
- They were sealed with a massive circular stone that was rolled into place and sealed
- To come and find the stone rolled away would have been quite a shock – but not as much as what comes next
- **Luke 24:3-4**
- They expect to see Jesus – instead they see an empty tomb
- ‘two men...shining garments’ = angels
- **Luke 24:5**
- These women had been around Jesus throughout His public ministry
- Jesus had said things that should have prepared them for this
- They would have been around when the religious people came asking for a miracle to prove that Jesus was who He said He was **Matthew 12:38-40**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- Jesus told them that He would die, but be raised after three days
- Angels ask, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead?’
- Saying, you should have come seeking to see Jesus alive
- They then remind them of Christ’s own words
- **Luke 24:6-8**
- That seems pretty clear, right?

- Being the super-spiritual guy that I am, I would have set up a lawn chair on Saturday night, a thermos of coffee and some hummus and pita chips and waited for Him to break out
- ‘He is not here, but is risen!’
- Turn to **1 Peter 1**
- Risen = raised from the dead – Jesus was dead, and then He wasn’t dead anymore
- But he didn’t just come to life – His body wasn’t reanimated like a zombie to a living death
- He didn’t even come back with the same body He had before he died
- He had a new body, a body designed to live in heaven forever
- This body that we live in today cannot go to heaven – it was designed to live on earth – it would be destroyed instantly in the presence of God in heaven
- Jesus died on the cross because all of humanity has chosen to live the way they wanted to and not the way God wants them to
- And because of His sacrifice for me, I have the hope of forgiveness for my sins – Because of Christ and His death on the cross, I know God will forgive me and accept me
- But because He was raised from the dead, because He was resurrected, I have another hope
- **1 Peter 1:3-5**
- The hope we have is that through Christ’s death we have forgiveness of sins, and through His resurrection, we have the hope that we will be raised to eternal life, just as He was
- Turn back to **Luke 24**
- On the cross, Jesus said, ‘It is finished!’ – meaning that God’s righteous demand for payment for sin had been met through Christ’s sacrifice
- The resurrection of Christ is God’s exclamation of approval of Christ’s sacrifice – the sacrifice worked
- Now anyone who turns to Christ can experience God’s forgiveness and have the hope of eternal life in heaven
- The women respond to the message of the angels
- **Luke 24:9-12**
- This group of women have just had a radical experience

- As they approached the tomb, they were in a state of mourning and hopelessness – they had put their trust in Christ, and then He was dead
- When they saw the tomb was empty, they were perplexed – they didn't understand what was going on
- Then the angels show up and they are afraid
- And then, the angels speak and tell them to remember the words of Jesus
- And suddenly everything was different – instead of death, there was life
- Instead of hopelessness – hope, from perplexed to committed, from afraid to bold
- There was a time when Jesus was saying some hard things to accept and people started leaving – He asked His followers **John 6:67-68**
Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

- The words of Christ are words of life
- The women at the tomb ‘remembered His words.’ And it changed everything for them
- That is God’s message for all of us, ‘Remember His words!’
- Words are important, they bring life or they drain life
- Words are important, but the most important of all are the words of the author of life, Jesus Christ **John 10:10**

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- No matter what state you are in, remember His words
- If you are sad, mourning, distressed, depressed – remember the words of Christ -
- If you are confused, distracted, frustrated – remember the words of Jesus – the Prince of Peace
- If you are one of God’s children, then the words of Christ are words of life
- When you are struggling and fighting your way through this life – remember the words of Jesus our King

- If you have accepted the sacrifice of Christ for your sins and have the hope of heaven because He was raised from the dead, then this book, the Bible, is filled with words of life
- Every time you sense life draining from your life – remember His words – and if you can't remember any – open this book
- Turn to **John 14**
- Jesus said that He was going to die – and he did
- He also said that after three days he would be raised – and He was
- He said that he was going back to the Father, and he did
- Everything that Jesus said was true and pointed to life
- After telling His disciples He was leaving, Jesus was asked how they could follow Him to heaven
- **John 14:1-6**
- Everything Jesus said was true – said he was the only way to get to heaven
- Religion won't get you there – being 'good enough' won't get you there – doing good works won't get you there
- Only Jesus has the words of life – everything else in this life will drain you of life
- If you are feeling drained or maybe even dead inside – you need Jesus to give you His life
- Jesus died so that you could have His life inside you
- You can be free of the emptiness and despair of this life – accept what Jesus did for you and walk in His life
- Your hopelessness can be replaced by the hope of His resurrection
- Jesus can bring life to everything He touches – your life, your marriage, your family – anything
- But Jesus will not force that life on anyone
- He is standing at the door of your heart knocking – won't you invite Him in right now
- Bow your heads and close your eyes
- **Pray**