

Bethel Bible Series

The Empty Tomb

New Testament Week 8

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - How do you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to others?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *A Light in the Darkness*

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Purpose of the Gospels

- Not intended to be complete historical textbooks
- Intended to tell as much of Jesus' story as is needed for salvation
- Written to preserve Jesus' story to fulfill His Great Commission

Mark

- First and shortest of the four Gospels, Referenced heavily by Matthew & Luke
- Peter's gospel (Mark wrote what Peter remembered), Written to Gentiles
- A Gospel of Action (emphasizes Jesus' deeds rather than words)

Matthew

- Provides bridge between the Old and the New Testaments
- Written for Jewish Christians - Shows Jesus as the promised Messiah
- Only apostle called individually, Tax collector

Luke

- The longest and most literary of the four Gospels, Wrote a full and orderly account (inc. Acts)
- The only Gentile to write a New Testament book (Joined Paul on journeys)
- Synoptic with Mark & Matthew (*seen together, with the same eyes*)

John

- Last written and most theological of the four Gospels, Written around themes, not chronological
- 92% of its material is unique, not included in the synoptic gospels
- Language is richly symbolic, Common words have deep theological meaning
- Written to strengthen Christians, not as a missionary appeal

A Light in the Darkness - Picture Concepts

- Dark Clouds Over Earth* = Evil covered God's earth like darkness
- Manger Scene* = The Redeemer came as an innocent child in this darkness
- Light Around Child* = The Messiah brought God's light into the dark world

- Cross and Thorns* = Men loved the darkness and crucified the source of light
- White Clouds and Beam of Light* = God turned this evil deed into a victory
- Infant & Crucified Hands* = A baby's hands took the world's sins to a cross

Golden Crown = Christ's kingdom was ushered in by His death

Ring of Light Encircling Globe = Jesus is the Light of the World

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Lesson - *The Empty Tomb*

Responses to Jesus' Death and Resurrection

How did people respond to Jesus' Death?

- Luke 23:48 = people - beat breasts
- Matthew 27:3-5 = Judas - Great remorse, hung himself
- Matthew 27:54 = centurion - "Surely he was the Son of God!"
- Mark 15:44 = Pilate - surprised, asked centurion if he was dead
- Matthew 27:57-60 = Joseph - took body, wrapped, placed in tomb
- Luke 23:55-56 = women - saw tomb, prepared spices
- Matthew 27:62-66 = chief priests - asked for guard to seal tomb
- Luke 24:17, 20-21 = disciples – Faces downcast, *had hoped he was the one to redeem*

How did people respond to the Empty Tomb?

- Matthew 28:4 = guards - afraid, shook, froze like dead
- Luke 24:4-5 = women - bowed down in fright
- Mark 16:8 = women - trembling & bewildered, fled from tomb, told no one
- Luke 24:9, 11 = apostles - didn't believe women
- Luke 24:12 = Peter - ran to tomb, saw linens, wondered what happened
- John 20:10 = disciples - went back home
- John 20:11 = Mary Magdalene - wept by tomb
- Matthew 28:11 = guards - reported to chief priests
- Matthew 28:12-13 = elders - made story that disciples stole body
- Luke 24:13-17 = disciples walking - confused, faces downcast
- John 20:19a = disciples - behind locked doors in fear of Jews

How did people respond to Jesus' Resurrection?

- John 20:16-18 = Mary Magdalene - recognized Jesus, told disciples
- Luke 24:30-34 = disciples walking - recognized Jesus, told disciples
- Mark 16:9-13 = disciples - did not believe Mary nor two walking
- Luke 24:36-37 = disciples - thought they saw a ghost
- John 20:20 = disciples - overjoyed
- John 20:28 = Thomas - "My Lord and my God!"
- Matthew 28:17 = apostles - worshipped him, but some doubted
- Mark 16:20 = disciples - went out and preached everywhere, did signs

The Empty Tomb

The Empty Tomb = Christ is risen

- Matthew 28:5-7 = angel said, "don't be afraid...he has risen...go tell..."

The Descending Dove = The outpouring of the Spirit is promised

- John 14:26 = "Father will send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit...to teach"
- John 14:18-19 = "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you..."

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The Rich Man and Lazarus (*Handfuls on Purpose XII*)

What happens at death?

Luke 16:19-22 = Angels escort the faithful to heaven

Are we conscious in the other life?

Luke 16:23 = Yes, the rich man was very conscious

Will we know each other in the other life?

Luke 16:23 = The rich man recognized Lazarus

Is there any difference in the places where the dead go?

Luke 16:23-25 = Definitely - great torment & suffering in hell, paradise in heaven

Is there any hope of a second chance?

Luke 16:26 = No, a great chasm is fixed which no one can pass over

How can we make sure that we go to the right place?

Luke 16:27-29 = Listen to & trust in God's Word (Scriptures were called Moses & Prophets)

Resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15

Why does Paul want to remind us of the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 = we are saved by it; hold firmly or believe in vain

What are the important pieces of this gospel and why are they important?

1 Corinthians 15:3 = Christ died for our sins, fulfilling promises in Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:4 = He was buried & raised on the third day

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 = appeared to many

What does this say about our own resurrection from death?

1 Corinthians 15:12-13 = if no resurrection, then Christ has not been raised

What does it say about our faith if we do not accept resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:14-17 = faith is useless & futile; false witnesses about God

What if we believe Christ came only to give us full & happy earthly lives?

1 Corinthians 15:18 = those fallen asleep in Christ are lost

1 Corinthians 15:19 = we are to be pitied more than all men

1 Corinthians 15:32 = then we should just eat, drink & be merry

Is Christ the first, or one of many who had been raised from the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 = first-fruits; in Adam all die, in Christ all live

Will our bodies when we rise be in the condition with which we leave our bodies at our death?

1 Corinthians 15:35-38 = earthly body is seed to heavenly body

1 Corinthians 15:39-41 = earthly splendor vs. heavenly splendor

How do our earthly bodies differ from our heavenly bodies?

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 = perish/imperish, dishonor/glory, natural/spiritual

Where can we look for an example of a spiritual body?

1 Corinthians 15:45-50 = the last Adam (Jesus) was the spiritual body from heaven

William Barclay on 1 Corinthians 15: All through this Paul is talking about things that no one knows anything about. He is talking not about verifiable matters of fact, but about matters of faith. Trying to express the inexpressible and to describe the indescribable, he is doing the best he can with the human ideas and human words that are all he has to work with. If we remember that, it will save us from a crudely literalistic interpretation and make us fasten our thoughts on the underlying principles in Paul's mind. (Sounds like he is saying, "Think Hebrew".)

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The Resurrection of the Body (*Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism - Apostles' Creed, Third Article, IV*)

I believe in ... the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

What does this mean?

... On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

195. What do the Scriptures teach of the resurrection of the body?

God will raise up me and all the dead, so that our bodies, the same bodies that have died, shall be made alive.

John 5:28-29a = *...all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out.*

Job 19:25-27 = *After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God*

196. What difference will there be in the resurrection of the dead?

A. *The believers will rise with glorified bodies to everlasting life in heaven.*

Philippians 3:21 = *He will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body*

B. *The unbelievers will rise to eternal death, that is, to everlasting shame, contempt and torment in hell.*

Isaiah 66:24 = *Their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched...*

197. What do the Scriptures teach of eternal life?

A. *At the time of death the soul of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ.*

Luke 23:43 = *Today you will be with me in paradise*

B. *At the last Day the believer will live with Christ, according to body & soul, in eternal joy & glory*

1 John 3:2 = *When He appears we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*

198. To whom will God give eternal life?

God will give eternal life to me and all believers, but to believers only.

John 3:36 = *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects...*

199. Are you sure that you will enter eternal life?

I firmly believe that, as God has in time called me by the Gospel, enlightened, sanctified and kept me in the true faith, even so He has from eternity chosen me unto the adoption of children and unto life everlasting, and no man shall pluck me out of His hand.

Ephesians 1:3-6 = *He chose us before the creation...to be adopted*

John 10:27-28 = *I know my sheep, I give them eternal life...no one can snatch them*

Closing Prayer

Summary = Go back over picture concepts

The Empty Tomb = Christ is risen

The Descending Dove = The outpouring of the Spirit is promised

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 8 and Assignment 9

Next Week - *Christ the Lord*