

# Luke 24:1-7

## *The Resurrection Changes Everything*

Cedar Creek Church // Easter 2026

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### Introduction

Well, happy Easter!

Listen, I don't know if you walked in *hopeless*, or *hopeful* this morning...

- I don't know if you wanted to be here or felt like you had to be here, regardless, what we're here to celebrate is something **that has the ability to change everything for you!**

*If you're new with us*, we're so glad that you're here! I want you to know that you walked into a church that's here for you, and our desire is to help you know and experience True life to the fullest!

- ***This morning, I want to show you how and why that's possible!***

*If you have your Bibles, go ahead and turn to Luke 24...*

Let me ask you this: **what would you say are some things that changed the world as we know it?** ... Here's some things that come to mind for me:

- The Automobile... *changed how we get around...*
- The airplane... *Changed world travel forever...*
- The Computer... *I was 15 when we got our first computer.*
- The internet... *AOL Instant Messenger?*
- The smartphone...

***How about this, what about on a personal level?***

*What are some things that happened to you that changed the rest of your life?* More than likely, it was an event in time that marked a turning point in your life where things would never be the same... *For me:*

- Going to college: *no more meals, laundry, no more curfew...*
- When I married my wife Ashley...
- When we had kids...
- My son Braxton's Diagnosis...

***Here's what we know to be true: There are certain events in life that change you and shape you...***

Well, this morning, we're going to look at an event in history that has the power to change and shape you, unlike anything else you've ever experienced...

- Regardless of what you carried in here that you're walking through right now...
- Regardless of the hurt and pain in your past...
- Regardless of how bad you have been...
- Regardless of whether you're religious or not...
- You have the opportunity today to walk out of here different, changed, and renewed, with a new hope and a new perspective that changes everything!

The **book of Luke** is **1 of 4 written historical accounts** of the Life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the Bible...

- At this point, in **chapter 24**, *Jesus has been killed and confirmed dead by many...*
- He's been in a tomb for 3 days...
- Hope was thought to be lost, and then this happens...

### Luke 24:1-7

**1** On the first day of the week [Sunday], very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. [The *they* here, is a group of women who had been followers of Jesus]

<sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, [They were at a loss for words, they didn't understand what was going on! ... *Kinda like South Carolina fans this past football season, again...*] ... suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. <sup>5</sup> So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. "**Why are you looking for the living among the dead?**" asked the men.

Listen, this line is so powerful, because in one sense it's a description of what we so often do...

**Illustration:** My kids love to play outside esp. My son Cole...

- Cole and the frog...
- *It's just sleeping... No, it's dead, no life there buddy...*

Listen, so often we find ourselves **looking for life among things that can't give it to us...**

- Status... *social popularity*
- Success... *job, money, stuff, comfort*
- Sensuality... *connection and love*
- Or you turn to drugs or the bottle to get that feeling one more time...
- Religion... *If I can just be good enough...*

**Example:** Balloon, helium vs. air...

- One stays up, the other has to be hit in the air all the time...
- Some of you wonder why something seems like it's missing, and you always need to find that next thing to get you motivated, looking for that thing that will help bring the changes that you want...
- You're looking for **identity, fulfillment, and satisfaction** in the wrong things *to get that hit back in the air!*

The problem is that none of that truly gives you what you want... You know why that's true, because you're never satisfied... You have to keep going back for more...

- *It's like Gatorade...*
- You're looking for life in things that can't give it to you...

**Jesus says** that He is the *way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)*... **Jesus says** that He came so that we could have *life and have it in abundance (John 10:10)*...

**Verse 6:** *The angel says this to the women who came looking for Jesus' body:* <sup>6</sup> "He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> saying, '**It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?**'"

**Ok, here's the question:** Why was it *necessary* for Jesus to be crucified and then raised from the dead??

Let's start with the first part: **It was necessary for Jesus to be crucified because of sin**

When sin entered the world, it broke everything...

What God created was perfect and good...

- When Adam and Eve chose their way over God's way, sin entered the world, and the good creation that God created began to unravel...
  - **Unraveled in four ways:**
    - Man and God
    - Man and Man
    - Man and Creation
    - Man and self

**Sin infected creation like a disease...**

- **Examples:** You see the implications of this disease come out at your wife, the kids, at your coworkers, in the desires that you pursue, in your thoughts ...
  - You feel anger, lust, pride burning inside of you...
- Not only does it wreak havoc on your life, **but it's also the thing that keeps you separated from God...**

**Romans 6:23:** *The wages of sin are death...*

- Spiritual death, external separation from the God that made us...

*We stand guilty before a perfect and holy God... Trapped in our sin...*

- God could have left us this way...
- But unlike every other religion, **God comes down on a rescue mission** to save us from the sin that infected us and keeps us separated from Him...

Jesus comes, and He **lives perfectly in your place...**

And then He would go to the cross and **die in our place...** Paying for our sin...

**Illustration:** Jesus used the example of Moses raising a snake and look and live... (**John 3:14**)

Jesus became that which was killing us in order to save us...

- **2 Corinthians 5:21...** *He became him who knew no sin, to become sin...*
- **Jesus, who was innocent, took on our sin at the cross...**

Right after the example Jesus gives in **John 3:14** is **John 3:16...** For God so loved... He would do it all out of love!

**It was necessary for Jesus to be crucified to pay for our sin...**

*But Jesus doesn't just come and die... Let's look at the second part. Why is it necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead?*

**It was necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead to bring restoration**

**Jesus didn't just die for your sins. He rose from the dead to offer you new life in and through Him!**

**Romans 4:25** *He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification...*

- The resurrection gives us new life and a new standing before God...
- We're no longer separated from God because of our sin, we're justified, our relationship with God is **restored**, through the work of Christ!
- His resurrection means that your cold, dead heart can be brought to new life!

**You get a new identity.**

- From sinner to son or daughter!
- 2 Corinthians 5:17... new Creation...
- **Restores how you view yourself...**
  - You are not what you have done, you are not what people declare over you...
  - So often, down deep, we can feel: guilt, shame, don't feel good enough...
  - What Jesus offers us means that God doesn't view us based on what we've done, but on what Christ has done for us! God views you through Jesus...

And the way that we receive **new life** and a **restored relationship with God** is through **faith...**

- It's not something that you earn, it's something that you receive!
- By surrender to the finished work of Jesus!

**Romans 10:9** If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- Not about lip service, it's about life surrender!
  - Lip service is saying I know you died for my sin, life surrender is allowing the work of Jesus to shape your life!

**Illustration:** *me being a soccer coach... Did I play professional soccer...*

- On the surface, it looks one way, but underneath, it's a different story...
- Some of you put on a front that looks one way, but down deep inside of you is a different story...
- You're not surrendered to Jesus...
  - Prayed a prayer, grew up in church, maybe even go to church, but you're not surrendered to Jesus...
  - He's not the Lord of your life... Shaping who you are!

Jesus came to restore our relationship with God, giving us new life and new identity... **But He also came to give us hope in the midst of a broken world...**

**Illustration:** There's a show called **1883** with *Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Sam Elliot, and LaMonica Garrett...*

It's a show about what took place in the late 1800s here in America, representing the many families who traveled west chasing a dream, a new life, a fresh start.

- They leave behind everything familiar, hoping to find something better. But the journey is brutal. People suffer. Wagons break. Loved ones die. That promised land feels further away with every mile.

There's a young girl named **Else** who's full of hope who narrates the journey. She believes in the dream, believes the pain will be worth it.

But there's a moment when she meets a Native American woman holding a dying baby. Elsa insists the baby will be okay, but the woman looks at her and says, "**This is not your heaven.**"

**IOW:** *The life that you're looking for can't be found here...*

***Some of you are looking for a version of heaven in this life that doesn't exist here!***

Listen to me, ***the life that you're looking for can't be found here...***

- We live in a broken world...
- The journey is harder than we think...
- And the outcomes are not what we expected...

***This is not our heaven!...*** Some of you know that well...

- You've been through hell and back hanging on by a thread...

What I want you to know is that there is hope, and there is a real heaven that you can experience one day...

This is where we get to embrace the beauty of the resurrection...

- The resurrection isn't the end, it's the beginning of God's promised plan to one day return and make all things new!
- **Revelation 21:5** – *"Then the one seated on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new.'*

\*Jesus came and dealt with the root cause of all our brokenness, **sin**, but he says that one day He's going to return and deal with all of our circumstances...

If the resurrection really happened, then everything is ultimately going to be ok...

- Doesn't mean that we won't hurt...
- Life can and will be hard...
- Braxton...

***There's hope in the midst of your hard...***

The resurrection changes everything... There is a coming **restoration!**

I know for some of you, you're like I don't know... I'm just not sure...

*I want to jump down to Luke 24, verse 13:*

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> Together they were discussing everything that had taken place. <sup>15</sup> And while they were discussing and arguing, ***Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them.***

What you have is two guys that were conflicted, frustrated, confused, and were doubting and in disbelief...

- They just weren't sure about it all...

And what we see is that in the midst of that... **Jesus came near and began to walk with them...**

- Jesus meets them right where they are in the midst of their doubts, confusion, and questions...
- And He doesn't confront them in that moment, ***He walks with them...***

For some of you, you're like these 2 guys...

- And what I want you to see is that Jesus meets you in the midst of your doubt, arms open wide, nail-pierced hands and feet, saying here I am, I'm here for the journey!
- In the midst of your

## Clear call to respond:

***Here's the question:*** What if this is true? What if Jesus really rose from the grave?

Call to surrender...

Give instructions for the card...

- Drop it in the box on your way out...

## Connection to Baptism...

Explain Baptism...

***Some of you need to take this step.*** There's a box on the card to check!

**PRAY**

## Close Service:

**One more call for the response card, ask them to put it in the box!**