

# **“Homecoming”**

**An Easter Message  
taken from Luke 24:36-45  
Delivered on Easter Sunday 2025  
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Good morning church. So yesterday as I'm preparing. I'm in my little study room and when I tell you I get overwhelmed... I'm sitting there by myself, and God starts showing me things in the scriptures. And I just start weeping. And this never... well, that's happened before, but not to where I had to share it with somebody. Like it was burning. Like I had to share it. My wife was studying in the living room and I said, “I've got to share this.” I did the best I could, but I was just weeping. Because of Jesus. I choose to look at the God side. Christianity is about Jesus. Not about you. We think it's about us. We want it to be about us. We want to have some credit in all of this. It's about Jesus. So God took me to the throne room.

You know, Christmas Eve, I've said before, there's so many different ways of looking at Christmas. I'm not going to live long enough to exhaust the places that I can go in the scriptures to talk about the birth of Christ. I mean... I could do fifty messages on it. I'm not going to, I don't have fifty more years.

I started thinking how I opened with Daniel chapter 7. And I'm going to open in that today as well. Because sometimes I think we see the crucifixion and we know that Jesus rose from the dead, and we know that we'll rise. The grave couldn't hold Him. It won't hold you. The same power that lifted Him will lift you. But I want to consider this morning how it looked from heaven. I want to start with Daniel chapter 7, verses 13 and 14. He says, “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, one like the Son of Man was coming.” Now you can picture this, I hope. It says, and He came up to the Ancient of Days. This is Jesus coming to the throne, to the Father, the Ancient of Days, and was presented before Him. “To Him, Jesus, was given dominion, glory and a kingdom that all the peoples, nations and men of every tongue might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

Let's pray. Our Heavenly Father, we do thank You for this day. Not just another Sunday, Lord, where we come, we worship, we hear Your voice, we feel Your presence, we learn of You. But a day, Lord, that we can truly say, Lord, Hallelujah. God, we pray that You would just bless Your word. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to teach us. Reveal Your Son to us. Help us to see Him, Lord, in a way like never before. We're grateful, Lord. I pray we're grateful. Do what only You can do, Lord. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

I always say the greater the battle, the sweeter the victory. Was there ever a greater battle in one life than there was for Jesus on that cross? You know, the angels, they were all there at creation. They were there when the Lord created. They were there at the giving of the Law. They certainly were there at His birth. They were praising. They were even with Him in the wilderness. It says the angels came and they encouraged Him. Even in the garden where Jesus would sweat drops of blood. I don't know if you've given that any thought, but that's the anxiety that is so heavy in a person's soul that the literal sweat breaks the pores in its blood. I'm sure no one here has experienced that. And yet Jesus did. And it says the angels came and they encouraged Him. They'll be there at the tomb. There were two angels that were there. You know where they weren't? At the cross. They weren't at the cross. Because what Jesus did, He had to do alone. No encouragement, no help.

When He went to the cross and they put the nails in His hands and in His feet. Brighter men than I'll ever be, doctors that have examined this, have said that it literally was into the nerve. Now, I have a ruptured disc. I'm not comparing this in any way. But sometimes I turn a certain way, and it pinches the nerve, and it's excruciating pain. On a scale of one to ten, it's twelve. Jesus had that through His whole body. We can't fathom that. He was tortured before that. He was whipped. He was scourged, where His whole back was ripped apart wide open. Now think of this. The only way He could breathe on the cross was to lift Himself up. In other words, it says in Psalm 22 how His bones were dislocated because He was literally hanging and the only way He could breathe was to lift Himself up. When He lifted himself up, everything on His back, was rubbing against that rugged cross, which just added to the pain. Death was a relief for the body, but it was life for His soul. I know there's been plenty of people that have been in that place of pain where they just wish they would die because it was so horrendous.

For three hours, it says He was there for six; for the last three hours, there's darkness on the earth because nature itself couldn't look upon the Son of Man as He bore the sins of mankind. The sun didn't shine. There was no moon, no stars, just darkness. And He would take upon His body the sins of every single person that's ever lived and paid for it in full. And so Jesus finally says in Luke 23:46; He's crying out with a loud voice and said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, He breathed his last. His Spirit is in the presence of God, but not His body. His body laid in the ground.

It says in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 8, “Therefore it says, when He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives and gave gifts to men.”

People wonder if because of the Apostles' Creed, did He go into hell. No, He went to Sheol, the waiting place of the dead, of the grave. You can see this in Luke chapter 16. There was one place that was called paradise, Abraham's bosom. There was another where they were tortured. Remember the rich man and Lazarus, and how the rich man ended up in Hades in hell. A picture of hell. He was being tormented. Lazarus, though, was a beggar. And he ended up in heaven, in paradise. That's where the Old Testament saints were. Jesus, during His time in the grave, came and set those captives free and brought them in their spirit form into the presence of heaven and it became a homecoming for all the Old Testament saints. It's all in Spirit. We can't fathom that. We know what the Spirit is. I know when I'm being controlled by the Spirit and it's an out-of-body experience. Can you imagine when they saw Jesus' Spirit come? They said, “we're going home.” That's resurrection. “We're going home.” They're not staying in a waiting place. They're going to their permanent home. And all heaven can do is receive them.

I want to read a portion. Again there's so many different ways of looking at resurrection. I just want to read this portion of scripture because this is what blessed me. It's in Luke's gospel, chapter 24. I don't know if you want to turn there or not turn there, but I'm just going to read it. It says, “while they were telling these things.” Who's they? It was the two on the Emmaus road. They were coming in. And Jesus shows up, it says, in another form, and Jesus is speaking to them, and they're talking about Jesus dying on the cross and saying, “what, are You the only one in Jerusalem? Like, You don't know what's going on?” They're telling Jesus this. Jesus, just nonchalantly, in total grace, continues to walk with them, and they invite Him in. Jesus gives the blessing for the meal. He was supposed to be the guest, but He's never the guest. He's always the host. He gives the blessing. And He began to open the scriptures up to them. And they began to see Messiah. And it says when He broke the bread, they knew it was Him. And He's vanished. They were like me in my little study room yesterday. I've got to tell somebody. They couldn't just keep it to themselves. They ran back to Jerusalem into the upper room where the disciples were so that they could tell them.

While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said, “peace be to you.” Luke 17:21 says “the kingdom of heaven is in our midst.” Matthew 18:20 says, “where three or more are gathered, He's in our midst.” Jesus appears in the room, but the doors were locked because they were in fear of the Romans. Some think He walked through the door. Some think He was already there. I know this... our resurrected bodies don't have limitations. We walk into a door, and it's like, that's a door. We hit a wall and we go, that's a wall. No limitations. “Peace be to you.” Can you imagine how fearful they were? There couldn't have been a better term or words that Jesus could have

spoken. Peace. Maybe next time you're going through a difficult situation and you don't feel that peace, remind yourself. Jesus says, "peace be unto you." It's Jesus. He's our peace.

We need nothing else when we're terrified and afraid. He's the antidote to fear. Luke 24:37, they were startled and frightened and thought they were seeing a spirit. He said to them, "why are you troubled? And why do you doubt? Why does doubt arise in your hearts?" Oh, I thought Thomas was the only one who doubted... Oh, no, they all doubted. So quit picking on Thomas! He gets a bad rap, I'm telling you! They saw Him and they didn't believe Him. At least when Thomas saw Him, he said, "my Lord and my God." He knew it was Jesus and he knew He was God. He said, "see my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me. See. The Spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." He doesn't say flesh and blood because the life of the flesh is in the blood in Leviticus 17:11. He says flesh and bones because He doesn't need the blood. He shed it all. There was none left. We don't need blood in heaven. We have spiritual bodies. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

Listen, John was the youngest. John the apostle. He was at the foot of the cross. He was the closest to Jesus being crucified. He was there because we know Jesus could speak to him and said, "My son, behold thy mother. Mother, behold thy son." He was speaking of John. Many believe Peter was there but at a distance. Peter being the strong guy, the tough guy. Boy, did Jesus humble him. When He had said this, He showed them. While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement. That sounds odd. But have you ever been so overwhelmed with joy and amazement that it was hard to believe? Jacob experienced it when he found out Joseph was alive. He couldn't even believe it. He was so overwhelmed because of the amazement. He said to them, "have you anything here to eat?" Again, so odd. They gave him a piece of broiled fish and He took it and He ate it before them. He wanted to prove. Many times they had meals together. The last time they were together was the last supper. It's only days later... four days later, and they see Him eat.

Now He said to them, "these are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." And I love this. Look at Luke 24:45. It says, "then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures." If Jesus doesn't open your mind and your heart, you will understand none of it. The angels, the angels... now they're piercing down upon this earth. They're all around Jesus. Jesus shows Himself many times. 1 Corinthians 15, the resurrection chapter, it says He showed Himself at one time to as many as five hundred. You think they'd all believe, right? No. No. To five hundred at once. Showed Himself to a harlot, to a demon-possessed woman, Mary Magdalene first. I love that because she becomes a picture of us.

Let's go to the throne. I want to go to the throne. Listen to this. 1 Kings 22:19, Micah or Micaiah said “therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left.” Isaiah 6:1 says, “in the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.” Ezekiel 1:26. “Now above the expanse, there was over their heads, there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance, and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man.” Daniel 7:9 “I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat, and His vesture was like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames. Its wheels were a burning fire.” You see the picture of Christ there? But it's the Father, because they're One and the same, the triune God and yet the burning fire, the wheels, similar to Ezekiel. Revelation 4:9 “when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever.”

The last thing we care to experience is people we love suffering. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit got together before creation, and they had a plan. And the desire was to create man, for the purpose of fellowship. Sure did go through a lot to get us to fellowship with Them. To fellowship... and They discussed it and They knew that They would create man. They knew the enemy, the devil, was going to come and tempt man and They knew that man would fall.

And so in that garden, it says at the end of chapter 2 in Genesis, “they were naked and they had no shame.” Chapter 3, they take of the fruit, they sin, and fire rushes through their hearts, and they realize that they're dirty, and they cover themselves, their nakedness, with fig leaves. The Lord meets them there. Jesus says “Adam, where are you? What'd you do? Where are you?” Jesus knew where Adam was. Adam didn't know where he was. Because for the first time, Adam was lost and he was separated. And in Genesis 3:15, Brother James shared it Wednesday night, how the seed of the woman will bruise Satan's head... That's Jesus. The seed of the serpent will bruise their heel... That's Satan. That's the gospel. But Jesus knew then that He would die for them. Because Adam sinned, we all sin. Because Jesus rose, we all rise.

Can you imagine the Father anticipating seeing His Son again? Can you imagine that? That's what overwhelmed me. I started to think about father's hearts. The heart of a father. Think of Abraham. Abraham goes to sacrifice Isaac... sacrifice! He's going to kill him. He's going to offer him up to God. The willingness of Abraham and the willingness of Isaac is the willingness of the Father and the Son. God could have stopped the whole thing anytime. He could have said, “no, that's enough. My Son and His humanity, that's enough.” But there's a reason why He turned His face from the Son while He was on the cross. Habakkuk 1:13 says He's too holy, He's too pure to look upon sin. So while everyone's sin was being judged on Jesus, it says God the Father turned His face and



Jesus says, “my God, my God,” (the only time in the scriptures He calls Him my God), “why have You forsaken Me?” Can you imagine? You need a sanctified imagination, but can you imagine the Father turning His back? It was the first time the Trinity had a separation, was severed. The greater the battle, the sweeter the victory. What a relief when Abraham sees the goat. He said, God will provide. And God did. Abraham must have been like, (a sigh of relief). But God the Father went through with it. The Father's heart.

Joseph... The brothers play a cruel trick. They sell him off into Egypt. They take his coat of many colors. They rip it all up. They shred it. They put blood all over it. They bring it to the father. “Dad, examine this. Let me know what you think.” Jacob loses it. He loses it. “My son is dead!” What they meant for evil, God meant for good. When they came back and Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, can you imagine when they said, “Dad, Joseph's alive!” Jacob was so overwhelmed it was hard for him to believe. That's the love of the Father.

There was one other example, and that's the prodigal. When you talk about the father's love, he gave him his inheritance. He took it and squandered it. But see this picture. The Lord Jesus was given to the world. To a far land... That's where the prodigal went, to a far land. That's where Jesus went. And the only time in the scriptures, if we look at the father as a picture of Father God. He runs to his son. He sees him from a distance. The son says, I'll go back. I'll be a servant. And the father says, no, you're my son. Can't be a servant... as the father pulled up what he was wearing and he ran.

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven, and for the first time in thirty three years, He's going back home. Jesus' homecoming. He's going back home. Here's the description of Jesus in Revelation 5:6, “And I saw between the throne. (I like that the modern King James says “in the midst of the throne.”) So He's in the midst. With the four living creatures and the elders... he says, “a lamb, standing, as if slain.” The word lamb means a young pet of a lamb. We're reminded of Exodus where they were told to take a one-year-old lamb, that's a little lamb, you take it into your home and you look after it for four days and then you slay it and then you pour the blood. If an artist was to recreate this, it would not be pleasant to look at. But the lamb, it's Jesus. And the embrace of Him coming home... what a celebration that had to be. The angels, all the Old Testament saints, they were there. He just went and got them. They were there. Unbelievable how they were all gathered and just worshiping and worshiping. It says in Revelation in chapter 4, I love it. It's just a picture of the throne room. It says, “and when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying 'worthy are You, our Lord and our God to receive

glory and honor and power, for You created all things and because of Your will, they exist and were created.”

The theme of the Lamb is through the scriptures. It's all the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament question was, “where is the lamb?”, (as Isaac said to Abraham, Genesis 22:7). The answer came by John the Baptist when he said, “behold, the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world,” John 1:29. And the choirs in heaven, in Revelation 5:12, they sing, “worthy is the Lamb.” That time in the upper room, the scriptures, for the disciples, became a new book. He made them able to receive. He made them able to understand. His very sacrifice was the life of the world, it says in John 6:51.

So throughout this whole resurrection, we see what Jesus has done, and we realize that He's done it for you. He's done it for me. I like 1 Corinthians 15:20. It says, “but now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also will come the resurrection of the dead. For as in one, Adam, all die, so also in Christ all may be made alive.” The ascension of Jesus is His homecoming, where He ever lives as high priest, He ever lives to make intercession for us, praying for us, watching over us, loving on us, caring for us, because He's alive. He's risen. Amen?

Let's pray. Father, we're so grateful for the plan that You set in place, and Jesus, for being obedient to the Father in His perfection, did all that the Father gave Him to do. Lord, we're so grateful for the sacrifice that You made for each one of us. You didn't have to, but you desired to do so. Because You looked at every single one of us, and for the joy that was set before You, You endured that cross. Seeing us saved from ourselves, saved from every enemy, there's no power on earth that can stop us from rising again because of what You've done. Lord, we're thankful for the life You've given us on this earth to walk in power, to walk with hope, hope that we have that same homecoming. We're only here temporarily. Help us to be reminded by Your Spirit, Lord. He is the teacher and the reminder of what truth is. To remind us, Lord, that our home is in heaven with You, where there's a oneness that is not blocked by anything, and yet we experience it on this earth. So we thank You, Lord, for the communication that we have with You by Your Spirit, the quickening. Thank you, Lord, for taking each one of us personally by the hand, reminding us that we belong to You, that You are ours. We are Yours. Lord, let us continue to understand and believe these things, and we know it's the power of the Spirit that does so. So we praise You in Christ's Name. Amen.