

FINAL WORDS OVER DEATH



PRECEPT

LUKE 24:33-43

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. ³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and He took it and ate it in their presence.

PROMISE

If we look at pop culture today, it seems that most forms of entertainment are facilitated by violence, brutality, and death as demonstrated by hit TV shows and movies such as *The Walking Dead*, *Hunger Games*, and *Squid Game*. We seem to be fascinated with mortality and decay. Yet Christians are called to be people of life rather than death—Christ has defeated death and sin through the cross and the resurrection. In the movie *Risen* (2016), look at the scene where the tribute interviewed Bartholomew about Christ's resurrected body and where the rest of the disciples are. There we will see an example of what it means to have understood the magnitude of the resurrection of Christ. Bartholomew could not contain his happiness despite being threatened and interrogated by the person who ordered the execution of Jesus. As Jesus' followers that should be our attitude today. Our joy about the resurrection of Jesus must reflect in our actions and smiles!

At the end of his Gospel, Luke records a scene in which Christ visits the disciples for the first time since His resurrection (Luke 24). Despite hearing from Mary and the other women who followed Christ that Jesus rose from the dead, His disciples are startled and frightened. This is understandable, considering that Christ seems to have just appeared in front of them, which made them think He was a ghost. Jesus seeks to reassure his followers by inviting them to see the physical aspects of His resurrected body and asking them for something to eat—something a spirit would not do. How about for us Christians today? What are the implications of Christ's resurrection for us? What does it tell us, His followers?

OFFER US BEAUTY (LUKE 24:39-40). Jesus' body that was beaten, abused, and slaughtered was replaced with a new, glorifying body. We can also look forward to that day in paradise in perfect state with Christ in eternity.

MAKES US HAPPY (LUKE 24:41). True happiness and hope is only possible through the resurrection of Christ. 1 Peter 1:3 says, "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*"

GIVES US VICTORY (LUKE 24:46-47). 1 Corinthians 15:52-54 tells us, "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*" ⁵³ *For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴ *And when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal put on immortality, then the Scripture will be fulfilled that says, "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

PRACTICE

1. Power of Resurrection. In Luke 24, the disciples were startled by Christ's resurrected presence. How should we be astonished by the power of the resurrection?

2. His Resurrection. Christ says He is "The Resurrection and The Life" (John 11:25). How does this alter what we think about our own lives?

PRAYER

I. Life Groups

- Pray that our life groups will grow in number. Most importantly, in their love for God and for one another.

II. Life Worship

- Pray that each member will be filled with the Spirit as they lead our brethren in worshipping the Lord.

III. Life Kids

- Pray that our teachers will not get tired of taking care of our children and teaching them the Word of God.

IV. Life Link

- Pray that the Lord may fill each of them with understanding and skill for orderliness as they serve.

V. Ministries

- Pray for growth for all ministries inside and outside our church. May they lovingly share the grace of God to all.

VI. Volunteers

- Praise God for our volunteers who are committed, passionate, and dedicated to the Kingdom work!

VII. Discipleship

- Pray that we will take up our cross to pursue the Great Commission to disciple our family and loved ones.