

SLOW TO BELIEVE

Ready for Pentecost #1, Luke 24:13-35

April 24, 2022

*Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are,
and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
Did not Christ have to suffer these things
and then enter into his glory?"*

Luke 24:25-26

Later that same day

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:13-27

1. Once again, Jesus takes the initiative (but recognizing Jesus is always his prerogative)
2. The two disciples had only the "ordinary" part of the story
3. The "three days" would be a special sign for these sincere Hebrews
(see Genesis 22:1-5 and the commentary in Hebrews 11:17-19; Hosea 6:1-2; Luke 11:29-32)
4. Jesus appeals to both mind and heart: the disciples are "not-mindful" and "hesitant"

Did not Christ have to suffer

- ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

1. Jesus' suffering is the fulfillment of the Old Testament picture of substitutionary atonement
2. Jesus' suffering is at the center of God's redemption plan (Romans 5:1-11)
3. Jesus' suffering begins to answer my questions about suffering (1 Peter 2:21)

. . . and then enter into his glory?

- ²² *I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the congregation I will praise you.*
- ²³ *You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

Psalm 22 (see also the end of Psalm 22 and Acts 2:31)

- ¹¹ *After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous
servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

Isaiah 53

1. Jesus is already fulfilling the Old Testament's anticipation of Messiah's reign
2. The New Testament is the "Cliffs Notes" version of Jesus' seminar on Moses and all the Prophets

Training camp for faith

1) Exercise head and heart

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7

Q 20. Are all people then saved through Christ just as they were lost through Adam?

A. No. Only those are saved who through true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.¹

¹ Matt. 7:14; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom. 11:16-21

Q 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;¹

it is also a wholehearted trust,² which the Holy Spirit creates in me³ by the gospel,⁴ that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,⁵ forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.⁶

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.⁷

¹ John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19 ² Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

³ Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14 ⁴ Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21

⁵ Gal. 2:20 ⁶ Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10 ⁷ Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

2) Obedience and prayer are exercises for our faith

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

² *Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."*

³ *Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."*

Genesis 22 (see also the women's obedience at the beginning of Luke 24)

2) At some point, true faith will recognize Jesus

³⁰ *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*

Luke 24

Resources for studying Luke

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

Spurgeon has a "Jesus Near but Unrecognized" message on this text at <https://www.spurgeongems.org/chs1180>

Spurgeon "Folly of Unbelief" is at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/folly-of-unbelief/#flipbook/>

J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary at <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/124.htm>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a very interesting sermon series on Luke at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>.

If you want to equip yourself to explain why we believe in resurrection, Michael Horton has a wonderful, if a bit heavy, article at <https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/articles/risen-indeed-2/>

Pink has an interesting "Christian Fools" message at <https://www.monergism.com/christian-fools>

Tim Keller has several faith challenges I like:

a wonderful summary of the gospel at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-story-of-the-bible-how-the-good-news-about-jesus-is-essential-tim-keller/>

a "Defeating" at <https://firstpresaugusta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Deconstructing-Defeater-Beliefs-Tim-Keller.pdf>

a helpful chart on religion and the gospel at <https://www.courageouschristianfather.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Religion-vs-The-Gospel-Tim-Keller-1.pdf>



