

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and Mission

Luke 24:13-27

NOW THE SAME DAY ... (vs 13)

This is resurrection day – ground zero. On the same day that the women had brought surprising news, these two disciples were making their way (presumably) back home; it was a sombre, confusing walk for them and along the way they encountered a stranger.

Introductory Reflection: *When the stranger says to them “What are you discussing together” Luke tells us that the two disciples stood still, their faces downcast (vs 17) and then responded by saying to the stranger (Jesus) ‘Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there these days?’. (vs 18)*

- *Take some time to look back over chapters 19:28 through to the passage under consideration and note the things that have happened that would lead to them feeling ‘downcast’*
- *Having itemised what you think sits behind the disciples feeling the way they do, put a ‘E’ beside the ones that would have encouraged them and a ‘DC’ beside the things that would have discouraged or confused them.*

In his sermon last weekend, Drew shared 5 results or outcomes of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ that directly speak into the mission that we are called into as disciples of Jesus; let's look again at these five things and reflect a little more on what God is saying to us today as a result of what he caused to be written by Luke.

1. The resurrection brings **CONFUSION** – it challenges the way we view the world.
 - a. There is confusion because there is miss-alignment between the culture of the day and the counter-culture of the Kingdom of God illustrated in the bodily resurrection of Jesus the Christ.
 - b. Are there aspects of the way you view the world, God and the work of the risen Christ that fail to align with a view of God as ultimate creator?
 - c. Are there things that God is calling you into, or is prompting you about, that is not easily aligned with how you currently live and work?
2. The resurrection brings **CLARITY** – it opens the way for us to see clearly what God in Christ is doing (see v27 and 44-45.)
 - a. The disciples were confused and discouraged and they were not able to readily hold together the truth that had been told to them with respect to who Jesus was and what had happened. What was it that helped them see things differently and with clarity?

- b. Are you currently spending time regularly reading and reflecting on the Word of God, the Bible? Is there something that you sense God is calling you to commit yourself to?
 - c. What significant, life challenging questions do you have that you would like to have the word of God speak into?
 - d. What is it about God's work in Christ, that seems confusing or unclear?
- 3. The resurrection brings **CONNECTION** – it opens the way for genuine connection through peace with God. (vs 36 & vs 47) repentance and forgiveness of sins.
 - a. In 1 Cor 15, Paul describes the gospel; that Christ died, was buried, was raised and appeared to many. We see here that the apostolic gospel was made up of four chapters of the story of Jesus, which is the resolution of the story of Israel as found in the scriptures. The apostolic gospel is indeed an 'according to the scriptures' gospel.
 - b. Scott McKnight writes the following and it might be helpful for you to review what he writes and consider what it says about comprehensiveness of the saving death of Jesus Christ. Jesus died
 - i. With us (identification)
 - ii. Instead of us (representation and substitution)
 - iii. For us (incorporation into the life of God)
 - c. 'Repentance for the forgiveness of sins' will be preached. People are called to change their minds about God and recognise the way to God as being through Jesus. Reflect upon and discuss the implications of 'repentance and forgiveness of sins'
- 4. The resurrection brings **CLOTHING** from God –
 - a. Clothing from on high with the gift of the **spirit** to empower his disciples vs 49.
 - i. How would you describe your experience of 'being clothed from on high' with the Holy Spirit?
 - ii. Do you sense God is inviting you into something greater with respect to the empowering of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. Clothing of the **imperishable resurrected body** 1 Cor 15:53 "for the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable...." Also it is also written "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep." (vs20)
 - i. Do you have any reflections as to the significance of Jesus being 'the first-fruit' of those who have fall asleep?
- 5. The resurrection brings the **COMMISSION** by Jesus of his disciples in the cause of God's redemptive purpose.
 - a. *The resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Christ, and the gift of the Spirit that comes to those who therefore are in Christ and therefore raised with Christ, is all about, all focused on, all designed, NOT to take us away from this horrible broken world, but to make us into God's agents of transformation within this world.* What does this mean for you as you seek to live for Jesus?
 - b. **Matt 28:18** "Then Jesus came to them and said "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME" – Think about this statement of Jesus, AND think about what he is about to do – YES, he's about to commission US for gospel service. HE SAYS 'ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME, AND I WANT YOU TO GO AND IN YOUR GOING MAKE DISCIPLES'.
 - i. What does it look like for you to bring real and effective signs of God's renewed creation into the world you inhabit and the community you are part of?