

Stories of Resurrection: Bodily Resurrection

Luke 24:36-49 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 18 April 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you experienced something that was almost too good to be true.

Worship: [Psalm 103:1-5](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 24:36-49](#) (Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

The death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of our faith. The physical reality of it is amazing... but it can also be a struggle for us. But this puts us in good company, for the first disciples struggled with it too – and they saw the risen Christ! Like the transfiguration, this is a singular moment of God breaking into the world. Our Savior has conquered death. This is the most important truth in all of history. Because if Jesus didn't rise, then the only alternative is for us to rise and redeem ourselves. And that is an experiment that has *never* worked. The risen Jesus is our Hope for substantive and lasting change, for healing from our sin or brokenness. Because of the resurrection – because Christ rose bodily from the dead – everything changes. Because of the risen Christ, we can know:

God cares about our bodies // The risen Jesus is a new embodied life for God's new age. His body isn't ghostly or ethereal. It's the substance of Heaven, which is more solid and real and glorious than any body found on earth. More real, more potent, more lasting. This is true for Jesus, and it is for us ([1 Cor 15:20-23](#)). And so our bodies have value – because they have an eternal future together with our souls. Our resurrection bodies will be like ours now, but purely full of God's Spirit. Because everything that is true of Jesus's risen body will be true of ours.

God cares about our world // There is deep meaning in Jesus's sharing meals with people after He rose. He is interacting with creation, consuming physical, worldly food. The material *matters* to God, even on the other side of death and resurrection. In fact, we should think of the resurrection world as being more tangible, more "real" and more beautiful than the current world because of this. Because God intends to make all things new ([Rev 21:1-5](#)). We therefore don't have to divide the secular from the spiritual and sacred. Jesus cares about it all.

God cares about peace and forgiveness // Whenever He appeared to people, the risen Jesus usually said, "Peace be with you." He then showed them the scars of His crucifixion. The glory of His resurrection body is that it bears the marks of our peace with God. Those marks are proof and assurance; they should give us an abiding peace that Christ has paid our debt – that in Him we have true and lasting forgiveness. And that is what Christ says the message coming out of Easter should be: a call to live grateful lives of repentance flowing out of this peace.

God cares about our suffering // Though He received a new body when He rose from the dead, Jesus kept His scars to heal our wounded hearts. The scars show God's love for us in the middle of our own sufferings. Suffering is never good in itself – not in God's eyes or in our own experience. But God uses them for good in His children – even if those ways are utterly beyond our wisdom or comprehension. They will be used to create glory in us ([Ps 119:50](#)) and woven into the glory to come ([2 Cor 4:17](#)).

God cares about our purpose // Our calling – our life mission – is to become servants of resurrection, living lives of repentance flowing from our forgiveness in Jesus. And through us, He plants seeds of resurrection. Our lives are to be expressions of this, which Christ will beautifully use. Because to celebrate Easter is to receive an invitation to live as though Jesus is among us, making everything new.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

Jesus rose bodily, so I can know that He cares about my body

- What proofs of Jesus' bodily resurrection are seen in this passage?
 - Why do we need the bodily resurrection of Christ to be true and how does this change everything?
- How does Jesus's physical resurrection impact your vision of what eternal life will be like?
 - How can we know that God cares about our bodies from this passage?

Jesus rose bodily, so I can know that He cares about my world

- How did Jesus confront and comfort the disciples in their fear and doubt?
 - How does this comfort us and speak to our doubts?
 - What will you do next time you experience fear or doubt?

Jesus rose bodily, so I can know that He cares about my forgiveness

- Discuss all that Jesus reminded the disciples about Himself.
 - How did He remind them? Is that how He reminds us?
- What scripture do you know from the Old Testament that teaches us of Jesus and His forgiveness?
 - How have you been meeting Jesus in the Scriptures lately?

Jesus rose bodily, so I can know that He cares about my mission

- What life mission did Jesus give to the disciples (and to us) in verses 46-49?
 - Discuss the promise that was given to fulfill the mission.
 - How is God preparing you to serve as His witness?

Prayer For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon ([site](#) | [book](#)).

As we focus on Generous Hospitality for several weeks, here are a couple of assignments:

- 1) Be purposeful in doing one small thing to get moves you down the line with a neighbor from Stranger to Acquaintance to Relationship.
- 2) Walk around your block asking God to give you a vision for what He wants your neighborhood to look like and what your part in the plan is.

For those of you who missed the Generous Hospitality Seminar, here is Dave Runyon's portion. Click [Here](#) to listen.