

Life Group Lesson

40 Days with the Risen Christ • Week of May 8

Introduction

What do you believe? Who do you believe? How do you know that what you believe is any truer than the person beside you? In the past two years, we have seen great struggle with disbelief. Who would have thought in an age when we consider ourselves ‘so advanced’ that a virus would shut down life as we knew it—businesses, work places, churches, indeed the world. The pandemic has caused many people to rethink life, family, and spiritual matters. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Message of Christ to flood across the globe. We see through many examples in Scripture, that when an individual begins to consider spiritual matters (life beyond this physical world) they are hopefully more open to being introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ – the One who left heaven and came with a mission to one day take us back to heaven.

Here is the problem: God is holy and there is no sin in heaven. Maybe you do not think of yourself as a sinner, and yet, you would probably admit that you are not perfect. No one is perfect. Thus, “God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but He has now revealed Him to you in these last days” (1 Peter 1:20). The Christ of God came into this world as a Baby, emptied Himself of all of heaven’s glorious status, and was given the name Jesus (see Philippians 2:7, Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21). John wrote: “This One who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that He is the One who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us (1 John 1:2). Jesus alone can forgive your sin because He alone died for you. No one else has died for you. Even if someone did, their death (though sacrificial) is not able to wash away your sin. Only Christ.

Background

As we read our text, keep in mind this Barna study: a 2021 study reveals 43% of millennials “Don’t believe or know if God exists” (risen from 12% in 2011). Only 6% of American adults have a Biblical worldview. This makes me wonder: Do we recognize the seriousness of sin? Jesus meets us where

we are – in our brokenness and sin – reveals the truth, and yet, does not leave us in our brokenness. Anyone who has sincerely (personally) experienced the forgiveness of sin, knows what the early disciples (and yes, the prophets of old) proclaimed to the point of being willing to die: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved... There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 2:21, Joel 2:32. Acts 4:12). The Gospel is not a set of beliefs but a PERSON, the Lord Jesus Christ! He does not chide us for disbelief; the Lord is patient when we come before Him with honest doubt. It is unbelief (refusing to believe) that tricks us down a deadly path.

Reading the Text

Read Luke 24:25-53

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

In Closing

The most radical upheaval our culture has experienced is our current system of disbeliefs. Somehow, we as a culture are being lured down a path of making-it-up-as-we-go-along. This is wrong; this is deadly. A thinking individual should stop and ask how I plan on standing before a Holy God in my sin and brokenness. God loves you, but your sin (anger, resentment,

bitterness, lust, addiction, self-absorption, idolatry, hatred) will not be allowed in heaven. Jesus can take all that baggage now and begin to make you ready for heaven. Don't put it off. Don't subscribe to 'Syncretism' – a jumbled collection of beliefs we piece together, or 'Moral Therapeutic Deism' that our ultimate goal is 'to be happy'. Let's face it. We don't know how to be happy in this life, at least not for long. Christ came to supply joy that lasts. Simply invite Him into your life today.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends” (Revelation 3:20).

40 DAYS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

Text: Luke 24: 31-53

PLAIN TRUTH:

_____ turns to _____ when
the message is _____ incarnationally.

1. He saw the _____ and the messenger
_____ the message.
2. A clear message cannot get ahead of
_____ the _____.
3. Message _____ through _____.

One Year Bible Readings

May 8: 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22, John 5:24-47, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 14:30-31
May 9: 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17, John 6:1-21, Psalm 106:13-31, Proverbs 14:32-33
May 10: 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27, John 6:22-42, Psalm 106:32-48, Proverbs 14:34-35
May 11: 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15, John 6:43-71, Psalm 107:1-43, Proverbs 15:1-3
May 12: 1 Samuel 12:1-13:23, John 7:1-30, Psalm 108:1-13, Proverbs 15:4
May 13: 1 Samuel 14:1-52, John 7:31-53, Psalm 109:1-31, Proverbs 15:5-7
May 14: 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 8:1-20, Psalm 110:1-7, Proverbs 15:8-10

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