

Resurrecting a Shattered Faith - Luke 24

Milton Vincent

Jesse Golem. "*I Was a Hardcore Christian, But This is Why I Lost My Faith*" (*Huffington Post*)¹

- Fighting Pastors. "We were at one church over the Easter weekend, and minutes before the service had started for Easter Sunday...two pastors had been screaming at each other and threatening to quit."

- Sexual Assault.
 - Christian Friend. "...reacted in a way that made me feel even more wretched about myself."

 - Where was God? "God either was present and there, and did nothing about it, or God was not there, and does not exist. . . . It is easier for me to think that God does not exist, than to think that God was present and did nothing....This is where I stopped believing in God -- I would rather think that God simply does not exist, than think that God abandoned me."

Why Some People "Go Prodigal"

The Shattered Faith of Christ's Followers

- Their Messiah let Himself get crucified and killed.
- Their spiritual leaders murdered Jesus.
- They themselves failed and abandoned Jesus.
- Jesus was abandoned by God.

¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/jessie-golem/leaving-the-church_b_4816252.html (02/19/2014)

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7 Acts

...of Jesus to resurrect the shattered faith of those who had lost hope in Him

#1 He presents them with an _____.

- A. Luke 24:1. “(1) But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. (2) And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”
- B. Luke 24:4. “...they were perplexed about this...”

#2 He provides them _____ messengers announcing His resurrection.

Luke 24:4. “While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; (5) and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living One among the dead? (6) He is not here, but He has risen....’”

#3 He _____ them of His prior _____ of His suffering and resurrection.

- A. Luke 24. “(6)...Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, (7) saying that the Son of Man **must** be delivered into the hands of men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ (8) And they remembered His words,”
- B. Luke 24. “(9) and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. (10) Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.”
- C. Luke 24. “(11) But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. (12) But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only, and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.”

#4 He listens to their story of _____.

- A. Luke 24. “(13) And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. (14) And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.”
- B. Luke 24. “(15) And while they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. (16) But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

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(17) And He said to them, ‘What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?’ And they stood still looking sad. (18) One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, ‘Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?’ (19) And He said to them, ‘What things?’....”

C. Luke 24. “(19) . . . And they said to Him, ‘The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who **was** a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, (20) and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.”

D. Luke 24. “(21) But we **were** hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. (22) But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, (23) and did not find His body, they came, **saying** that they also had seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.”

E. Luke 24. ““(24) Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”

#5 He explains to them the _____ and what they reveal about Him.

A. Luke 24. “(25) And He said to them, ‘O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’”

B. Luke 24:26. ““Was it not **necessary** for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?””

~ *Christ’s suffering results in their own suffering.* ~

C. Luke 24:27. “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”

D. Ryan Meeks. “If we need to consult an ancient book to know what to do when a human being is in front of us, I think we’re screwed already.”²

² <https://krfilms.net/v-a-church-where-lgbtq-people-are-accepted-as-they-are-XcViApak4Zg.html>

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#6 He makes three _____ to them.

A. ...to the two disciples

Luke 24. “(28) And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. (29) But they urged Him, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.’ So He went in to stay with them. (30) When He had reclined at the table with them, **He** took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. (31) Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. (32) They said to one another, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?’ (33) And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem....”

B. ...to Simon Peter

Luke 24. “(33)...and they found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, (34) saying, ‘The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.’ (35) And they began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.”

C. ...to all of His disciples.

1. Luke 24. “(36) And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be to you.’ (37) But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. (38) And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? (39) See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ (40) And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.”
2. Luke 24:41. “...they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement...”
3. Luke 24. “(41) While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ (42) They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; (43) and He took it and ate it before them.”

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#7 He _____ their minds to _____ the Scriptures concerning Himself.

- A. Luke 24:44. “Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **must** be fulfilled.’”
- B. Luke 24:45. “Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures....”

~ Evidence alone is not enough! ~

- C. Luke 24. “(46) and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, (47) and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things.’”
- D. Disciples’ response:
- “great joy” (v. 52)
 - “continually praising God” (v. 53)

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Conclusion

1. Sometimes the elect experience devastating circumstances that leave them in a state of disappointed hope, foolishness, and slowness of heart to believe the Scriptures.
2. The Christian Faith, through the person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures, has the stuff that is needed to resurrect a shattered faith.
3. Ministering to shattered souls who've lost hope takes time and patience and a willingness to engage.
4. We need a robust theology of suffering if we want to be effective in ministering to hurting people.
5. The best answer any of us have to the question of the problem of evil is a Messiah who has suffered more than any of us, yet who triumphed through His suffering and can bring us into His triumph. It is He whom we offer to those who have suffered.

*The other gods were strong, but Thou was weak
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne,
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds but Thou alone.³*

³ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/jesus-of-scars/>