

- B. That the disciples recognize this (now) is evident. (52-53)
 - i. They worshiped Jesus!
 - ii. Luke 4:8

C. The Jurisdiction of Christ

Mark Devine writes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *What he found in the Bible was not a pitiful God whose lordship over the world was in question but the crucified, risen, and ascended Christ whose lordship was established and in effect. The task of the church was not one of establishment of Christ's lordship but of witness, proclamation, and obedience.*

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What were the things that were *written* according to Luke 24:46-47? Do any of these surprise you? Can you think of places where these are written in the Old Testament?
- What does Luke 24:46-47 (as well as 24:25-27, 44) tell us about the importance of the Old Testament for the church? What does it tell us about how to understand it?
- What are the things that we are to be witnesses of? How do the Gospels and the book of Acts help us accomplish that?
- Why is the Gospel call to Christ central to all it calls us to? What does it mean to repent in the context of Luke's Gospel? Why is repentance the essential response to the Gospel call?
- What can we learn from the disciples worship of Jesus following His ascension? What does it say in the context of Luke about who Jesus is?
- Why is it never the task of the church to make Christ relevant to the world, but to proclaim Christ because He is relevant whether they recognize it or not? Why is He always relevant?

The Origins of the Christian Faith

Jerry Cisar — April 27, 2014

Text: Luke 24:46-53

Introduction: How did Christianity begin?

- A. Why do we have the Gospel of Luke? How did the Christian faith get started? How can we be confident it will succeed?
- B. The events recorded in the last 8 verses of Luke's Gospel are responsible for the beginning of the Christian movement, are the source of our confidence in its success, and reveal the key means for that success.

I. The Origin of Christianity is Rooted in Two Things (46-48)

- A. Christianity has its roots in two things foretold.
 - i. v46. *"The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day..."*
 - ii. v47 *"and repentance for [into] the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*
 - a) The content of both Luke's Gospel and Acts was foretold.
 - b) Christianity itself was written into the OT!
- B. Christianity has its roots in two things that you must bear witness to (48).
 - i. We have the book of Luke because the 1st audience of 24:48 obeyed it.
 - a) Luke 1:1-2
 - b) This is why the Gospels are so full of OT verses.

ii. This is also why we have the book of Acts.

iii. **The two books stand as two witnesses to the authenticity of Christianity.**

C. The call to be witnesses applies to the first disciples in a unique way. (24:33)

D. Christianity has its roots in *two things* foretold that you must bear witness to.

II. The Success of Christianity is Assured by the Gospel Call (49)

A. God not only empowered the witnesses of that era, but will empower witnesses in perpetuity for the continuance of the ministry of the Word. (Acts 2:39)

B. The Gospel 1st calls us to Christ.

i. To Christ as our Messiah (King).

ii. The Call to Christ has the power to forgive our sins.

a) Luke 5:24

b) Luke 4:16-21 with 24:47

C. The Gospel calls us to obedience.

i. The first disciples obeyed before they went (53).

ii. Waiting began again.

a) Zechariah/Elizabeth (1:6-7)

b) Simeon (2:25-32)

c) Anna (2:36-38)

iii. We are not called to stay in the city, but before we are ready for mission, we too must be obedient to Jesus.

D. The Gospel calls us to be witnesses.

i. The first missionary was sent home. (Luke 8:39)

ii. We also must tell what God has done for us, in order for them to hear what God has done for them.

III. The Jurisdiction of Christ is Revealed by a Big Journey (50-53)

A. Bethany

i. When was the last time Jesus was in Bethany?

a) 19:29 Jesus begins an inauguration ride.

b) Now, we see the real inauguration journey.

ii. Jesus is King over the whole earth. (Zechariah 14:9)

a) Ephesians 1:20-23

b) Daniel 7:13-14