

**Series Title:** *Easter Sunday*

**Today's Title:**

***“Liberated Minds to Receive Resurrection Realities”***

Scripture Reading and Text: Luke 24:44-49

**Introduction:** (Illustration from Nelson, pp.248-249)

Chuck Colson, exhausted from an over-booked schedule, arrived in rain and fog at a prison in remote Montana on the day before Easter, 1988. He was to speak at 2 services that morning, and the first went badly. Dog-tired and dry, his preaching lacked enthusiasm, and he sensed that he wasn't reaching the men at all. Between services, he went to the chaplain's office, sank to his knees beside the desk, and earnestly asked the Lord to take away his frustration, exhaustion, and despair. But as he rose from his knees, he felt no different and was too tired to greet the inmates as they began assembling. Waiting as long as possible to enter the service, he was surprised to find the room packed. As he took his seat, one of the inmates rose to give a testimony.

“Ten years ago when Chuck Colson came to this prison,” the man said, “I was in my cell. I had no intention of coming to the chapel to hear him. I knew he was a phony, and I wanted nothing to do with Christianity. But everyone in the prison seemed to be talking about the visit. The governor was coming with Colson, as well as a lot of television and newspaper reporters. *If Colson can get the governor to come to prison, I thought, I might as well see what he is all about.*”

Then the man turned to Colson and said, “I listened to you preach, and I was impressed, but I wasn't buying it. When the meeting ended, I headed for the door. Somehow you were there before me, and you cut me off at the pass. You looked right at me and asked, ‘Do you know Jesus as your Savior?’ I looked back at you and said, ‘No.’”

“I’ll never forget –“ the man continued. “You looked me straight in the eye and said, ‘Well, why are you here, then? You’d better get with it.’”

“That exchange haunted me. It was the beginning of my spiritual journey. Soon after I gave my life to Jesus, and everything has been different ever since.”

The inmate, having given his own heart to Christ, had begun to evangelize inside the prison. One after another, prisoners had come to Christ.

“You see all these men, Chuck? This is the body of Christ that has grown up as a result of that meeting ten years ago. The church is alive inside this prison.”

Amid thunderous applause, the inmate proceeded to give Chuck a collection taken in the prison for Prison Fellowship’s ministry.

“I felt their vitality flood into me,” Chuck later recalled. “I had come to them weary and worn out, and the church inside the prison – planted without my knowledge ten years earlier – replenished me with its love and faithfulness. Just at the point of need, the power of the resurrected Christ flowed from one part of His body into another.

“That Easter I had proof once again, in His living presence among a band of Christian inmates, that Jesus Christ is risen again.”

**Premise:** *For clearer understanding, run to the risen Christ*

**Outline:**

**I. Prophecy to Announce God’s Purpose**

**II. Perception to Analyze God’s Plan**

**III. Power to Apply God’s Provision**

**I. PROPHECY TO ANNOUNCE GOD’S PURPOSE**

v.44

**A. Jesus knew who he was and what he was sent to do**

*“These are my words that I spoke to you....”*

c/w Luke 18:31-33

1. As God in flesh, Jesus purposefully accomplished everything to which He was sent to earth

Note: “*See, we **are going up to Jerusalem...***”

Note: Consider the “I wills” of these 3 verses (5 times)

2. Jesus is Lord over all His revealed Word to the prophets

3. Jesus ordained His own handing over to Gentile attack

4. Jesus ordered His own violent treatment as was predicted in the Hebrew scriptures

Isaiah 52:14 “*As many were astonished at you – his appearance was so marred, beyond human*

*semblance*

*and his form beyond that of the children of mankind –*

5. Jesus laid down his life in death

6. Jesus rose from the dead

**B. Jesus’ former relationship would be forever changed**

“*...while I was still with you....*”

c/w Romans 8:14-17, 26-27, 33-39

**C. The O.T. scriptures unanimously testified of Jesus**

“*...that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*”

Note: This was the Jewish form to indicate the complete set of God’s revelation to man. No other writings were distinctly regarded as Scripture; not even the Mishna

Note: Consider the 3 divisions of O.T. books:

1. The Law

The Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus,  
Numbers, Deuteronomy

2. The Prophets

This included the largest number of books and included not only the prophets’ writings, but also several of the historical books:

Joshua, Judges, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12 minor prophets ex-

### 3. The Psalms

These books were called the Hagiographa which means *Holy Writings*:

Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles

[see Rene Pache, pp.216-217]

Note: All the following fulfilled prophecies are recorded in the Gospel of Matthew

the miraculous birth

the location, Bethlehem

the descent into Egypt

the massacre of the innocents

the childhood at Nazareth, in Galilee

the forerunner, John the Baptist

the healing of the sick

the beloved Servant of Jehovah

the hardening of the people

the teaching by means of parables

the hypocrisy of the Pharisees

the coming of Elijah

the entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey

the making of the temple into a den of robbers

the perfection of praise from the mouth of babes and sucklings

the rejection of the head stone of the corner

the Messiah whom David called Lord

the thirty pieces of silver offered by the chief priests

the betrayal by Judas

the smiting of the Shepherd and the dispersal of the sheep of the flock

the arrest, and the numbering of Jesus' soul with the transgressors

the coming of the Son of man in the clouds

the insults, spitting and smiting on the face of the Messiah

the wine mingled with gall, the vinegar

the crucifixion, the piercing of the feet and the hands

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the casting of lots for the garments  
the railings during the death agony  
“My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”  
the burial in the tomb of the rich man  
the resurrection  
the good news carried to all nations

## **II. PERCEPTION TO ANALYZE GOD’S PLAN**

vv.45-48

### **A. Jesus opens minds to understand God’s Word**

c/w vv.25-32

- Poem by Michael Angelo (1475-1554) [Tozer]

*The prayers I make will then be sweet indeed  
It Thou the Spirit give by which I pray:  
My unassisted heart is barren clay,  
That of its native self can nothing feed:  
Of good and pious works Thou art the seed,  
That quickens only where Thou say’st it may:  
Unless Thou show to us Thine own true way  
No man can find it: Father! Thou must lead.  
Do Thou, then, breathe those thoughts into my mind  
By which such virtue may in me be bred  
That in Thy holy footsteps I may tread;  
The fetters of my tongue do Thou unbind,  
That I may have the power to sing of Thee,  
And sound Thy praises everlastingly.\_\_\_\_\_*

### **B. All reality points to the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

1. His death
2. His resurrection
3. Man’s responsibility
4. Man’s deliverance
5. Gospel proclamation

- H. Richard Niebuhr, a long deceased liberal summed up his perverted concept of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

*“A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.*

- Donald Grey Barnhouse, a Gospel preacher said:

*“To preach a social gospel without the redemptive background of individual salvation from sin of the individual sinner is like launching a glider instead of a high-powered plane. A glider may soar for awhile on the fickle currents of the wind, and climb high on some sudden up-draft, but it is the four whirl wind motors that will carry a bomber to the stratosphere and jet-propulsion and rockets that will take a plane beyond the speed of sound.”* [Green #597 and #596]

**C. God providentially preserved eye-witness accounts**

v.48

c/w I Corinthians 15:3-9

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon [2,200 Quote's #2096]

*Our Lord was careful to show himself after his resurrection to those who, having known him before his decease, would be able to answer for the identity of his person. Had he merely showed himself to strangers who had not known him before, they might have been able to say that they had seen such a one, but they could not have affirmed that he was the same person who had been buried. But showing himself to men like Thomas, and bidding them to put their fingers into the print of the nails and thrust their hand into his side, he gave to men the most absolute proofs of his resurrection, and received from the most competent witnesses the most assured evidence that no deception had been practiced.*

**III. POWER TO APPLY GOD'S PROVISION**

v.49

**A. Jesus fulfills the promise of God the Father**

c/w Ezekiel 36:22-28

**B. Submission to Jesus receives dynamic ability**

c/w Acts 1:1-11

**Conclusion:** (Illustration from Nelson, p.249)

It was Good Friday, and Lois Neely of Ontario was struggling with discouragement. She had expected to spend Easter with friends in Florida, but a serious illness had cancelled her plans. She was bitterly disappointed, and as she sat gazing through a frosted window at the cold, barren landscape her thoughts went to the swimming pool and tall palm trees she was missing. Several problems confronted her, and she was worried and weary.

Finally she prayed. "Lord," she said, "if you could gladden the hearts of those sad followers who had been walking to Emmaus, you are able to do it for me."

Remembering that the Emmaus disciples in Luke 24 had invited a friend to dinner, she decided to do the same. The friend came, and the two women had a great time. Then, remembering the women who visited the tomb on Easter Sunday, she called the chaplain in her retirement center, and the two began planning an Easter Sunrise service.

To her surprise, forty seniors showed up, and the whole group seemed energized to sing, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

That evening, Lois wrote in her diary, "A most excellent day!"

And isn't that, after all, what Easter is!

**Premise:** *For clearer understanding, run to the risen Christ*