

*Sermon on Luke 24:13-35 prepared by Jonathan Shradar*

Luke 24:13-35

**The Redemption of the newborn King is realigning for humanity.**

Our van was in the shop this week. Frustrating, but hopefully not as bad as it could be. This had me thinking about our last van... we really haven't had luck with vans, one burned in an auto shop fire... The previous one, I am not sure it ever drove straight. It was constantly "out of alignment." So much so that it wasn't worth fixing - and we got a new van.

Maybe you have had a car long enough that it needed realignment. You hit one too many curbs and things were a little off. Usually, realignment works and you are propelled forward in the direction you are supposed to go.

Life is full of realignments - adjustments back to what is most important, what is truest of you. Conversations that jostle you back into alignment with right values or goals. Situations that rhythmically bring you into correction.

Seasons are also tools often in realignments. Like all the Hallmark movies where the woman who has lost her way in the big city goes back home at Christmas to the small town and is reminded of her hopes and dreams... and the secretly rich old flame... Life changes!

Realignments happen to organizations as well. Whole groups of people can be corrected back into the right direction. Churches center on core values, to set the direction.

Rescued by Jesus, Reshaped into family, for the Renewal of others and all things!

Advent then is a perfect season to recognize that faith in Jesus is really a life of constant realignment to what is right and true over preference and presupposition.

Our text today has Jesus - the resurrected King - dealing out the realignment and we can gain some insight for ourselves as we determine to map the course of our lives by our true north.

Context: After the cross and after the resurrection, that very day - two disciples (one we know is Cleopas) are traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus (seven miles).

They are having some heavy conversation about all the things that had happened. You can imagine it was intense - what do we make of the entry into town that turns into a crucifixion and now the body is missing.

And Jesus, who they are kept from recognizing, walks with them. In conversation, he fixes some thinking and lights their hearts on fire.

Two movements we want to think about, the purpose of redemption and the promise of redemption.

### **Purpose of Redemption**

Why redemption? *Vindication; absolution*

1. the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
2. the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

Use it because these disciples bring it up!

**Luke 24:17** “And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad.” (ESV)

Cleopas, a bit sarcastically, lays it all out for this stranger on the road. Of Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet might in deed and word who was killed by the chief priests and the people.

**Luke 24:21** “But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.” (ESV)

The women were saying he is raised from the dead... they saw angels. And we just don't know.

Essentially, “this is not going the way we thought it would!”

They followed Jesus, rightly because he was the hoped-for Messiah. The savior. But what they believed the redeemer would do was off. Things were not unfolding the way they expected.

“Cleopas and his companion were hoping, in accord with the promises in the Scriptures, that Jesus was the one who would redeem Israel (cf. Ps. 25:22). In the OT Yahweh is the redeemer of Israel, the one who promised to restore Israel from exile (Isa. 41:14; 43:14; 44:24). Israel prayed for redemption (Ps. 25:22), and we see the hope of Israel in Psalm 130:8: “He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.” Jesus came as that Redeemer, as both Zechariah and Anna prophesied from the beginning (Luke 1:68; 2:38), but he redeemed the people in a way they did not anticipate.” TS

Their wrong view - political, military. A king with an army dashing the enemy - casting off Rome.

I don't want to be too harsh on these two. Lots of people expected this. Shoot, even today some of those that profess Christ expect this. There really are lots of ways we get redemption wrong.

Ole' Creflo “Jesus died on the cross so you could have abundance and wealth...”

Burgeoning Christian Nationalism in our day. Redemption is about use taking control, judging sinners, and forcing submission... all quite absent Jesus.

Even more subtle is the posture that redemption means God will crush everyone we don't like. Charlies Dates call this “Get ‘em God!” Where we see other sinners as more deserving of judgment than us... bubbles up in every corner of life... and ever those well outside the sphere of faith lurch in these directions. Self.

The King was to gallop in on a horse and set us at his right. But instead, he died. He was buried and now the grave is empty. And it's the third day... way too late.

**Luke 24:25–26** “And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” (ESV)

The redeeming work of Jesus is about something deeper than political power and prestige... than control.

**Luke 24:46–47** “and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” (ESV)

He suffered, he died to solve the problem of sin. To make righteous all those who would believe. So hearts could be renewed, made right, and surrendered to God. So even Romans could be saved... so you can stand before God, blameless.

“Redemption (apolutrósis) refers supremely to the work of Christ on our behalf, whereby he purchases us, he ransoms us, at the price of his own life, securing our deliverance from the bondage and condemnation of sin.” Lig Duncan

Giving thanks to the Father... **Colossians 1:13–14** “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (ESV)

**Ephesians 1:7–10** “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” (ESV)

Redemption from which we live!

**Titus 2:11–14** “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” (ESV)

This is the reason for the season, for redemption.

**Luke 2:10–11** “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (ESV)

One who would suffer, who would take on death, to redeem his people.

This is actually what we need. We don't need another scheme to get ahead. We don't need to prop up princes as if they are our hope.

This is what the disciples need. Not a military or earthly king - but to recognize there is value in suffering and something more to carry us through - to hope in.

This is what aligns us to the way we were meant for. The redeeming work of Christ. Forgiveness in his name.

And life is best lived seeing it. Living from and for this redemption.

### **Promise of Redemption**

**Luke 24:27** “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (ESV)

What a vital verse of Scripture. All of the Bible... Moses and the Prophets... it's all about him.

Oh to hear this sermon! I really feel that this is the calling and work of the church - to see and expose the promise of redemption on every page. To see the true hero. The One encountered in dry places. The One foreseen in foreign spaces.

To follow the thread through it all - that with carries us and give us purpose.

*Genesis:* Jesus is a new Adam, descendent of Abraham, better Melchizedek, and ladder of Jacob.

*Exodus:* Jesus is a baby born under threat, guiding angel in the desert, Passover lamb, and tabernacle.

*Leviticus:* Jesus is the lamb of God and the great high priest.

*Numbers:* Jesus is the symbol on a pole, bread from heaven, and the watering rock.

*Deuteronomy:* Jesus is the prophet like Moses, the fulfiller of the law.

*Joshua:* Jesus is the leader into the promised land.

*Judges:* Jesus, like Samson, is commissioned from miraculous conception to be a savior.

*Ruth:* Jesus is a descendant of David through Ruth.

*Samuel:* Jesus is one who grew in wisdom and favor with God like Samuel, and the promised eternal King of David's line.

*Kings:* Jesus is the son of David, true temple, righteous king who restores Israel, and prophet to non-Jews like Elijah and Elisha.

*Chronicles:* Jesus is the son of David who restores Israel from captivity and is the true temple.

*Ezra-Nehemiah:* Jesus is the true temple and the rescuer of his people from captivity.

*Esther:* Jesus is the one who saves his people from the enemies of God.

*Job:* Jesus is the mediator between God and man.

*Psalms:* Jesus is the son, son of David, forsaken by God, resurrected one, anointed of God, and Lord of David.

*Proverbs:* Jesus is true wisdom.

*Ecclesiastes:* Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

*Song of Solomon:* Jesus is the husband to his people and we are the bride.

*Isaiah:* Jesus is the God with us born of a virgin, the servant of the LORD, who's been given the Spirit to preach good news to the poor, enslaved, and non-Jews, the one who suffers in place of his people.

*Jeremiah-Lamentations:* Jesus is the one who brings a better covenant and is a righteous king like David.

*Ezekiel:* Jesus is a fruitful vine, the one brings God's Spirit to empower changed lives, true David, prince of the true temple, upright shepherd, and brings resurrection.

*Daniel:* Jesus is the son of man who receives authority over all things, the anointed one who is killed, and bringer of resurrection.

*Hosea:* Jesus is the son brought out of Egypt.

*Joel:* Jesus is the one who gives the Holy Spirit to his people.

*Amos:* Jesus is the one who restores Israel and saves the Gentiles.

*Jonah:* Jesus is the one who lived in the place of death for three days yet lived to preach the gospel to non-Jews.

*Micah:* Jesus is the ruler of Israel born in Bethlehem.

*Nahum:* Jesus is the one who brings good news of coming peace.

*Habakkuk:* Jesus is the one who commands his people to be saved by faith, but threatens with punishment those who reject him.

*Zephaniah:* Jesus is the one who punishes Israel by destroying them, but promises her restoration. The one who dances and sings over us!

*Haggai:* Jesus is the one who threatens a terrible future judgment.

*Zechariah:* Jesus is the one who walks among the lampstands, the coming king into Jerusalem, the son that is mourned over when pierced, and will be king over all the earth.

*Malachi:* Jesus is the messenger of the LORD who follows after the Elijah-like predecessor.

Jesus does not fulfill only the Messianic prophecies contained in the OT; he fulfills the whole Scripture because it points to him as the climax of God's delivering his people.

And hear he is on the road to Emmaus making it clear, giving us a model for seeing him in all of Scripture. It sets the disciples right. Realigns them.

Garland: "Jesus did not overwhelm these two disciples by some spectacular revelation of himself that imposes faith on them. Instead, he interprets the Scriptures for them. They need to hear the Word of God to clear up the confusion of their own 'words' (24:17)."

As we pursue him in Scripture, we find him. And we see redemption, promised and delivered.

It lights us up!

**Luke 24:30–32** "When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. [31] And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. [32] They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (ESV)

Talk about a cool reveal... the Lord's supper, the miraculous feeding of thousands. Blessing and breaking. Like his body for us.

And they knew it was him. Their hearts burned.

John Wesley had his heart strangely warmed by the finished work of the cross on May 24, 1738. He went to Christian fellowship one evening, where he heard a man reading the preface to Luther's Commentary on Romans, and later wrote in his journal, "While he [Luther] was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

"We require a supernatural work of God to understand the Bible. Hence we are told in Luke 24:45 that Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." When Jesus opens the Scriptures to us, our hearts burn with joy and insight." TS

We need the Spirit to set us afire... So we line up the wood (our pain, our dreams, our success, our lives, and his promise, in the word, all of it) and we see what the Spirit will do!

Reshapes us when we see the promise of redemption - Jesus - gives us eyes to see the purpose of redemption, (forgiveness, new life,) and we can take great joy that his newborn king has delivered it to us.

Gets us through. He is the hope in every hymn, the satisfaction in every song.

**The Redemption of the newborn King is realigning for humanity.**

All had seemed lost... But the third day for Luke is the day of resurrection, the day of redemption, the day the promises are realized.

Surrender the constructs - the false things of faith. Seek Jesus. His redemption.

So that, like the disciples, with burning hearts we would rush out into the night to tell others of forgiveness in his name.

*All The Earth Was Waiting*, Resound Worship



All the earth was waiting,  
Long anticipating,  
For the true Messiah to come.  
In the chill of darkness,  
Light became incarnate:  
King of glory, cradled in straw.

*Refrain*

(He is) Joy to the world,  
Peace on the earth;  
God has come to us,  
Immanuel.

Hope for all the doubtful,  
Mercy for the shameful,  
Healer for the wounded and worn.  
Jesus, our redeemer,  
Counsellor and keeper;  
Father's gift of love now outpoured.

Come to him, the Lord of lords,  
Bring your sorrow, bring your joy,  
Worship and adore the one  
The world was waiting for!  
Jesus will return to reign,  
Wiping every tear away;  
Death will be defeated,  
Earth and heaven will proclaim –

Joy to the world,  
Peace on the earth;  
God has come to us,  
Immanuel.

The redeemer, our king.