

Luke 24:36-53

When we “see” Jesus we live to tell of him.

A week away from Christmas... it has me nostalgic for a time gone by. And for Christmas caroling. I don't know if it was a midwestern thing or just normal behavior in the 80's... growing up we always went caroling. It was a highlight of the Christmas season.

Bundled up, singing Christmas carols at old folks homes, in our neighborhood and sitting around the fire. It was always missional. We did it with friends from church and desired for people to know the love of Jesus.

We sing these songs, not merely for nostalgia sake, or because it gets us into a wintery mood, but because they declare hope, keep us anchored to the gift of Jesus.

Let's sing...

“Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born

And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Perfect Christmas carol. Jesus is born. Brought us all salvation. Tell everyone!

It relays that we have something to sing about. Beyond a cultural expression, it is something life-changing and worthwhile that we sing about at Christmas and always!

Carols bring us joy and as we end our study of Luke's gospel we end with great joy!

Where we've been these months in our study - finding a Kingdom ethic.

Two births, promised and unexpected. Surrender to God's promise and plan. Angels singing. Faithful saints worshiping having seen salvation. A boy about his father's business. The voice in the wilderness calling people to repent. Temptation and proclaiming good news to the poor... the year of the Lord's favor.

Healing. Calling disciples. Claiming Lordship over Sabbath. Teaching about missing the point. And the declaration that blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep, when people hate you on account of the son of man.

Loving our enemies. Judging. Producing fruit in our lives. Calming a storm. Casting our demons. Sending his followers out to preach. Teaching us how to pray. Confronting Pharisees. Calls to repent. The Kingdom as a banquet where the poor, the crippled, blind and lame are at the table and there is still room. More parables. Persistence.

The plot to kill Jesus. Turning over tables. An entry. A trial. A crucifixion. His body broken for us, blood poured out as a new covenant. And on the third day he rose. He appeared to the women, to Peter, and to the two on the road.

With the disciples gathered together, "Jesus himself stood among them."

When we "see" Jesus we live to tell of him.

Gives a greeting of peace and a mission to his followers.

Gift of Peace

Jesus is peace. “Shalom!” “Peace to you!”

Their context: They are fearful, locked behind doors. Unsure of the future, confused about the past. Even with reports of the resurrection, they marvel at it but they haven’t taken hold of it yet.

The human context: fearful, broken, captive... unsure of the future, confused about the past. Weighed down by sin and the pursuit of self above all things.

This is what the resurrected Jesus enters into. He comes and declares and provides peace. Real peace.

We want it. We need it.

Seinfeld - Frank Constanza “Serenity Now!”

Our hearts go through life screaming the same thing!

They no longer need to be troubled. It’s really him. They can touch him. See him eat. It seems too good to be true. But here he is giving them peace.

What he did. His promise was always wrapped in peace.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)

John 20:19–21 “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” [20] When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (ESV)

Peace because it means the cross-work is finished. Death is defeated. There is peace between God and his people through Christ.

It's how his followers go on living. It's the thing that keeps us humbly onward.

Philippians 4:4–7 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

It's peace because forgiveness is found in his name. The breach is bridged. The separation resolved.

“The beginning of Luke's Gospel account emphasizes that all that happened with Jesus is “gospel” or good news. It is good news because through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension God is forgiving our sins, blessing us, and giving us his peace (1:67–79; 2:14).”

We don't get “perfect,” life is hard - we are waiting for the better meal with Jesus - but we do get peace.

As promised. Supernatural peace.

It was foretold in the law, prophets, and the Psalms. It's all about him.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 “*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:* that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

Luke 24:45 “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,” (ESV)

We are still in need of understanding. Comes as this gift of peace the Spirit works in us.

We have it with the “promise of the Father” that Jesus promised.

John 14:15–17 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

While these disciples see Jesus standing before them, because of the Spirit we can now “see” Jesus.

We see him in his word, all of it, declaring him, his finished work and the peace he brings.

We see him in each other.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*: “the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure.”

Settles who we are, what we are about, what we long for, and what we do with all we have been given...

Go on Proclaiming

Their peace isn’t only for them.

Luke 24:46–48 “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. [48] You are witnesses of these things. (ESV)

Witnesses.

We are given peace so that others will hear.

Our western experience does violence on this. Makes too much of self-oriented, self-obsessed life. “Do your own thing!”

Countercultural to witness of Jesus to help others to see.

This is Jesus sending his followers to do just that. Clothed in power by the Spirit (Acts 2) And we like them, those that have seen Jesus live to tell.

“We have in this story and these words a picture of the gospel of grace and God’s heart toward us in Jesus. He knows our weaknesses and that we are but dust (Ps. 103:14), yet he joyfully welcomes us to be his children. Even more, he commissions us to be his witnesses and agents of the gospel message throughout the world (Luke 24:48). It is this Spirit-given understanding of God’s love and grace in welcoming us that empowers and motivates us to proclaim his grace to others (v. 49).” GTB

We know this is how it is supposed to be.

2 Corinthians 5:19–20 “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (ESV)

Those that believe in Jesus are now part of this mission.

Jesus’ death and resurrection connect to the apostles’ mission to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

“The gospel was and is for the world! We are to be gospel men and women who proclaim that “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). Our message is not a philosophy. It is not even a way of

life. It is the eternal good news based on historical events prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled by Jesus the Messiah. We are to preach Christ and him crucified.” Hughes

His peace going through people that have seen Jesus. Those made salt and light.

Takes on different ways, different opportunities...

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, (ESV)

“What does Jesus’ resurrection have to do with being empowered to spread the good news? We are strengthened to spread the good news when we are indwelt by the Spirit and are convinced that the good news we preach is true. We preach not fairy tales but something that has truly happened in history.” TS

We go on reaching the world. Starting from home. By the Spirit, come what may, always anchored in this peace.

When we “see” Jesus we live to tell of him.

See Jesus - In his word, in community. Surrender to him, make him Lord.

Proclaim - tell all who will hear. This is where real peace is found. Real purpose. Real life. We might not always live up to the NT example, and we rest in Christ’s pursuit of us and are renewed to go on telling.

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)

Luke 24:52 “And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,” (ESV)

“Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born”

Shall we?!