



Growth Group Questions:

April 9, 2023 – “Eu-Catastrophe”

Context

The gospel of Luke concludes with the resurrection and resurrection appearances of Jesus. All of the events of Luke 24 happen on the same day and they all take place geographically in or around Jerusalem. The other gospels offer different glimpses into the resurrection of Jesus and the events that happen after his resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:6-8 the apostle Paul tells of us others that Jesus appeared to after his resurrection. *“After that, Jesus appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”*

The Lukan account makes mention of the women bringing spices that they had prepared in order to give Jesus a proper burial because he had not received one after the crucifixion. The preparing of the body was very important for Jewish believers. The disciples for some reason – more than likely fear (John 20:19-20) – chose not to go to the tomb until they had been told that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

As the women were looking in the cave for the body, two angels appeared gleaming like lightning. The women fell down in the angels’ presence in fear. The appearance of angels to humans is typically followed by fear. Now, the women are both confused and scared. All they had been trying to do was give Jesus a decent burial and now he was gone and the angels are asking why they are looking for the living among the dead.

It is clear that no one had been listening to Jesus when he said he would rise from the dead in three days and if they had been listening no one believed it. Death was the end. People did not come back to life. And yet, Jesus defies our expectations. He is truly God’s son. He conquered death and was raised to life, so that his followers might have abundant and everlasting life.



Scriptures:

Luke 23:47-56

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Luke 24:1-8

²⁴ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

Luke 9:22

²² And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Romans 8:31

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



N.T. Wright quote:

“Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project - not to snatch people away from earth to heaven - but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.”

Questions:

1. Pastor Paul introduced us this week to the term “eucastrophe,” which he defined as a “joyous turning of events,” or a time when what appears to be a disaster becomes joy. Have you ever experienced eucastrophe? What did it feel like?
2. In Luke 24:1-8, the women who went to the tomb to prepare Jesus’s body for burial were surprised to find the tomb empty. Since Jesus had already told them that He would be crucified, dead and buried, but would be raised on the third day, why do you think they were surprised? Why didn’t the disciples believe the women when they heard the womens’ stories?
3. Just like the people who followed Jesus seemed to forget what He had told them about his death and resurrection, we often fail to remember the incredible goodness of our God. Why is that? What can we do to jog our memories so that we do not forget God’s faithfulness to us?
4. Pastor Paul used the analogy of a dead end street to describe how we can sometimes feel stuck in a bad situation, lose hope, or simply feel like we cannot go on. Romans 8:31 assures us that if God is for us, nothing can be against us. How can we claim this promise and apply this scripture to our lives?
5. N.T. Wright said that Jesus’s resurrection is “the beginning of God’s new project. . . to colonize earth with the life of heaven.” What does that mean to you?
6. The N.T. Wright quote also makes it clear that Jesus didn’t come to earth just to offer us everlasting life. Christ meant for us to have an abundant life here on earth. What did Jesus mean when He promised us an abundant life?
7. Pastor Paul told us that God gives us the responsibility of showing the love of Jesus to the world. Why is this a gift?
8. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus says we are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” What does it mean for us to be salt and light?

