

SERMON: WHY JESUS MADE A U-TURN

Matthew 28:7; Luke 24:13-15; Luke 24:31-36

Matthew 28:7

And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you.

Luke 24:13-15

(13) And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. (14) And they talked together of all these things which had happened. (15) And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.

Luke 24:31- 36

(31) And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight. (32) And they said one to another, Did not our hearts burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures? (33) And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them. (34) Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. (35) And they told what things were done in the way, and how He was known of them in breaking of bread. (36) And as they thus spake, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Introduction

The bodily resurrection of Jesus, our Lord, is a historical fact. There were multiple witnesses, at various times, of His post-resurrection appearances. Any defense attorney or prosecuting attorney would love to have this many witnesses to prove their cases.

However, there are some who discredit the truthfulness of the resurrection because of seemingly discrepancies between the four gospel writers' narratives. One of these "false

discrepancies” is that Jesus sent word to the apostles to meet Him in Galilee, because He was going before them.

Jesus started to Galilee and went as far as a village named Emmaus, conversed with two followers there, disappeared, and returned to Jerusalem. He made a U-turn and went back to Jerusalem. He stayed there several days and then later went to Galilee.

It is simple; Jesus made a U-turn in Emmaus because the apostles did not heed His command to meet Him in Galilee. Their non-compliance was more about human failure and weakness than blatant disobedience. He returned to Jerusalem to minister to His apostles because they would have to carry on the work after He ascended back to the Father. Let’s look a little closer as we extract facts from this thought. We will use material from all four of the gospel writers.

Exposition

1. To Quell The Fears Of The Apostles.

(Jesus Reiterated Common Themes.)

(Peace Be Unto You.)

(Fear Not.)

2. To Destroy The Doubts Of The Apostles.

(Thomas Needed Special Attention.)

(In His Grief, He Left The Gathering Before Jesus Appeared.)

(He Left Before The Benediction.)

3. To Bless Future Believers.

(Blessed Are They That Have Not Seen, And Yet Have Believed.)

(John 20:29.)

Closing Thoughts

Jesus made a U-turn to minister to the apostles. Jesus is still making U-turns to save the lost, to comfort the bereaved, and to give hope to the hopeless. Jesus makes U-turns to put us on the right road. Please remember, when you follow the footsteps of Jesus, you will be on the right road, going in the right direction, and heaven is your final destination. The “strait and narrow” way is a one-way street, and U-turns are not allowed- They are not even possible. You may stumble or get tired, but there is no turning back. Once saved, always saved. Let me say it again. Jesus makes U-turns to

put us on the right road where U-turns are not permitted- not even possible. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory.

Related Scripture

Matthew 26:32

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