

Bethany Bible Church  
April 16, 2017  
Dr. Ted Wueste

**Outstretched Arms of Grace -- Present Grace**  
**Luke 24:1-34**

**The resurrection is the \_\_\_\_\_ of life in Christ.**

“... marveling at what happened.” (v. 1-12)

**The resurrected Christ...**

**... appears in our lives amidst the \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“Jesus himself drew near and went with them.” (vs 13-16)

**... asks questions to open our \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“and He said to them, ‘What things?’” (vs. 17-24)

**... affirms that the resurrection requires \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things...”

(vs. 25-27)

**... activates their faith through intimate \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...” (vs. 28-34)

## Seeing Jesus in the Ordinary

Encountering the risen Christ changes everything... 2,000 years ago and today. The way Jesus changes everything is through the ordinary experiences of life. He won't overpower us. He draws near to us in the midst of our ordinary life. Jesus waits to meet us in our simple, daily lives. It takes imagination to see God in the ordinary things of life. Frequently in our daily encounters with Jesus, He asks us to die, to separate ourselves, to various small things in order for us to experience resurrection on the other side. He is present. He is at work. In everything He is closer to us than we can imagine. Will we slow down the pace of our life to see Him at work?

## Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. Will you say "yes" to eternal life in Christ today?
2. After His resurrection and before His ascension into heaven, Jesus' recorded actions were very ordinary. He did not appear in triumph over the people who sentenced Him to death. Why do you think this was so?
3. Jesus Christ is the Lord of the extraordinary. Why do you think He wants to show up in your life as your Lord of the ordinary?
4. How do you think Jesus wants to show up in your ordinary life today? Use your imagination.
5. We can live very hurried and fast-paced lives. How can you "slow down" and find the space to *play* today?



**OUTSTRETCHED  
ARMS OF GRACE**

**“And if Christ has not been raised,  
our preaching is useless and so is  
your faith.” 1 Corinthians 15:14**

**The resurrection is the center of life  
in Christ.** “...marveling at what happened.” vs. 1-12

**“And if Christ has not been raised,  
our preaching is useless and so is  
your faith.” 1 Corinthians 15:14**

**“I want to know Christ and the power of  
His resurrection.” Philippians 3:10**

**“And as they were speaking to the people, the  
priests and the captain of the temple and the  
Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed  
because they were teaching the people and  
proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the  
dead. And they arrested them and put them in  
custody until the next day, for it was already  
evening. But many of those who had heard  
the word believed, and the number of the men  
came to about five thousand.” Acts 4:1-4**

**“And if Christ has not been raised,  
our preaching is useless and so is  
your faith.” 1 Corinthians 15:14**

**“I want to know Christ and the power of  
His resurrection.” Philippians 3:10**

**“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the  
dead, this is my Gospel.” 2 Timothy 2:8**

“And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him.”

Augustine



The resurrected Christ ...

“Jesus is apt to come, into the very midst of life at its most real and inescapable. Not in a blaze of unearthly light, not in the midst of a sermon, not in the throes of some kind of religious daydream, but . . . at supper time, or walking along a road. This is the element that all the stories about Christ's return to life have in common:

The resurrected Christ ...

... appears in our lives amidst the ordinary.

“...Jesus himself drew near and went with them.”  
vs. 13-16

“Mary waiting at the empty tomb and suddenly turning around to see somebody standing there—someone she thought at first was the gardener; all the disciples except Thomas hiding out in a locked house, and then his coming and standing in the midst; and later, when Thomas was there, his coming again and standing in the midst;

“Peter taking his boat back after a night at sea, and there on the shore, near a little fire of coals, a familiar figure asking, ‘Children, have you any fish?’; the two men at Emmaus who knew him in the breaking of the bread.

**The resurrected Christ ...**

**... appears in our lives amidst the ordinary.**

“...Jesus himself drew near and went with them.”  
vs. 13-16

**... asks questions to open our hearts.**

“...and He said to them, ‘What things?’” vs. 17-24

“He never approached from on high, but always in the midst, in the midst of people, in the midst of real life and the questions that real life asks.”

**Frederick Buechner**  
*The Magnificent Defeat*

**The resurrected Christ ...**

**... affirms that resurrection requires death.**

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things...?”  
vs. 25-27

**The resurrected Christ ...**

**... appears in our lives amidst the ordinary.**

“...Jesus himself drew near and went with them.”  
vs. 13-16

“Every time I say no to the birthing and dying that is set before me at the table of daily life, I seem to hear the echo of Jesus’ words to the woman at the well, ‘If you but knew the gift of God ... ’”

**Macrina Wiederkehr**

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“As you journey with God, the only thing He intends to be clear is the way He deals with your soul. The sorrows and difficulties in the lives of others will be absolutely confusing to you. We think we understand another person’s struggle until God reveals the same shortcomings in our lives. There are vast areas of stubbornness and ignorance the Holy Spirit has to reveal in each of us, but it can only be done when Jesus gets us alone.

The resurrected Christ ...

... affirms that resurrection **requires death.**

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things...?” vs. 25-27

“Are we alone with Him now? Or are we more concerned with our own ideas, friendships, and cares for our bodies? Jesus cannot teach us anything until we quiet all our intellectual questions and get alone with Him.”

Oswald Chambers

The resurrected Christ ...

... affirms that resurrection **requires death.**

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things...?” vs. 25-27

... activates their faith through **intimate fellowship.**

“And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him...” vs. 28-34

“Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

Ferris Bueller

