



You Are Witnesses

(Luke 24:36-53)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. We can "know" Jesus for years, but not really know Him until we experience life with Him for ourselves, until He genuinely resonate in & through our lives.
 - a. How in-tune are you with Jesus? Is there impact in and through your life?

Witnesses personally experience Jesus [Luke 24:36-43]

1. Background: Rumors of resurrection
 - a. [24:33-34] The 11 remaining disciples marvel over Peter's claim to have seen the risen Jesus.
 - b. [35] Cleopas & No-Name burst in, & confirm a second similar sighting of Jesus alive.
 - c. Begin to believe based on the testimony of 2+ skeptical eyewitnesses (biblical evidence of truth; cf. Deut 17:6; Matt 18:16; John 5:33-39; etc).
2. Jesus appears in order to confirm His bodily resurrection
 - a. [36] Jesus appears in the locked room, speaking peace to the anxious disciples
 - b. [37] The disciples flip out anyway, thinking He's a ghost.
 - c. [38] Jesus asks: Why are you flipping out outwardly & doubting inwardly?
3. Jesus proves His physical resurrection
 - a. [39-40] Jesus wants them to personally experience the truth about Him.
 - i. Don't just look, touch His physical scars & see.
 - ii. Significance: Jesus' victory over sin & death cannot just be to a ghostly afterlife, but in genuine bodily resurrection, though in an imperishable, glorified body (cf. 1 Cor 15:42-44).
 - b. [41a] Response: Joy & disbelief; "I can't believe this; this is unbelievable."
 - c. [41b-43] Jesus gives them empirical evidence that He's indeed alive.
 - i. He eats grilled fish in front of them.
 - d. Significance: They came to believe in the resurrection based on being eyewitnesses and empirical evidence.
4. How do we know the resurrection is true?
 - a. Believe through the eyewitness accounts of skeptics & their tests of empirical evidence.
 - b. We also need to personally experience the risen Lord in our lives.
 - c. Just as He was mighty in deed/word then, He still is today because He is risen!
 - d. Application: Have you been a first-person eyewitness in your personal life? As one who sees, tests, touches, experiences the resurrected Jesus for yourself?

Witnesses see God's plan fulfilled in Jesus [Luke 24:44-46]

1. [44] Jesus taught them that everything written about Him in Scriptures must be fulfilled.
 - a. Moses' Law, the Prophets, & Psalms: All of the Old Testament, the entire Bible at the time.
 - b. They reveal Jesus by prophecy & pattern. Some examples:
 - i. Moses/the Law:
 1. Moses foreshadows Jesus as a prophet/mediator between God & man.
 2. Exodus reveals God's sovereign plan to redeem by the blood of an innocent substitute lamb.
 3. [Num 21] God has Moses lift a serpent on a staff/tree to heal people suffering the just, deadly consequences of turning from Him (cf. John 3:14-15).

- ii. Prophets: The Suffering Servant will be killed (Isa 53:7-9), yet rise (Isa 53:10).
 - iii. Psalms:
 - 1. Messiah will die (Psa 22:14-15), but it will not be His end (Psa 22:21-25).
 - 2. The Righteous Sufferer will give up His spirit in death, but be redeemed to life (Psa 31:5).
 - c. [45] Jesus opens their minds to understand Scriptures all point to Him (just as He opened their eyes to recognize Him; cf. Luke 24:31).
2. [46-47] Scriptures reveals God's sovereign plan of redemption through Jesus' death, resurrection, & proclamation.
- a. [46] The Christ must die in our place for our sin, then rise to be our Savior.
 - b. Our assurance: Not just based on personal experience, but also seeing the truth about Jesus revealed & fulfilled in God's salvation plan throughout history.
 - c. Application: Has His great redemption story unfolded for you? Opening your mind & transforming your life?
 - i. Does the truth about the risen Lord resonate in your work, home, finances, attention & devotion?

Witnesses testify to the world about Jesus [Luke 24:47-49]

1. [47] Also part of the plan: The good news about Jesus would be proclaimed to all people/nations.
- a. Scriptures point to this throughout the Old Testament: Gen 12:3; Moses & the Law in Rom 10:14-21 (cf. Deut 32:21; Isa 65:1); Psa 22:27; Prophets: Isa 2:2; 49:6; Hos 2:23; Mal 1:11.
 - b. That is God's plan for us & through us.
 - c. Jesus instructs us how & addresses several obstacles:
2. Obstacle: "I don't know what to say."
- a. [46] Proclaim: Jesus died for our sin, & rose to be our Savior.
 - b. [47] Proclaim: Because of Jesus' death & resurrection, we can turn away from sin (repent), and turn toward Jesus (to receive forgiveness) because He paid the penalty.
 - c. Pro-Tip: You probably wouldn't start here, but at some point, you must land here.
3. Obstacle: "I don't know where to start." Or "I don't have any non-Christian friends."
- a. [47] Though most were from Galilee, they start from where they were (Jerusalem), spreading to all nations.
 - b. Personal Context: Start from where you are, & keep going until the gospel spreads to everyone everywhere.
 - i. Proximity: If your world has grown smaller, get out & be around people.
 - ii. Intentionality: Wherever God has placed you, see & interact with people intentionally as a Christian.
 - iii. Availability: To overcome tiredness/busyness, we must create margins to be intentionally present.
4. Obstacle: "I'm not a clever preacher."
- a. [48] You are witnesses:
 - i. Eyewitnesses of Jesus' mighty works & teachings (24:19); His death, burial & resurrection (24:46).
 - ii. Ones who give testimony about Jesus (major theme of Acts); Greek: *Martus* (where we get "martyr").
 - b. In a trial, a witness doesn't concoct a clever story; they just have to speak the truth about what they've seen.
 - i. Paul doesn't preach the gospel with clever words or human wisdom because it is already powerful (cf. Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:17; 2:1; 1 Thess 1:5).
5. Obstacle: "I just can't do it."
- a. [49] They'll be able to witness when clothed with power through the Father's promise. What power/promise?
 - i. Luke & Acts (prequel & sequel, both written by the same investigator, Dr. Luke) provide the context.
 - b. The power & promise of the Holy Spirit, the 3rd Person of the Trinity.
 - i. [Acts 1:8] "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, & you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem... to the ends of the earth.*"
 - ii. [Acts 2:32-33] "*This Jesus, God raised up, & of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, & having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing & hearing*" (the good news about Jesus miraculously).
 - c. That same power of God is available to us already.
 - i. [Eph 1:13] "*In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, & believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.*"
 - d. A witness testifies to what they've experienced with Jesus through the power of God's Spirit.

Be a witness

1. You are the fulfillment of Scriptures about Jesus' proclamation
- a. The gospel is the hope of the world, and the Church is His chosen vehicle.

- b. Our limited expression:
 - i. Level 1: Let people know I'm a Christian. Invite them to church or Christian event.
 - ii. Level 2: Intentional acts of kindness pointing people to the goodness of Jesus.
- 2. We are called to proclaim the truth about Jesus: His death & resurrection, repent & receive forgiveness.
 - a. Application: "5-for-5 Challenge"
 - i. Their story: Bless with listening & understanding their situation; show how Jesus' way might help.
 - ii. Your story: Share 30-second true story about what Jesus has done or is doing in your life.
 - iii. Goal: Connecting their story or your story to God's story in Jesus.
 - b. It requires proximity, intentionality, availability, prayerfully leaning on the power of the Holy Spirit, to tell people what you've witnessed about Jesus.

Conclusion [Luke 24:50-53]

- 1. [50-53] Jesus leads them just outside the city, blesses them, & ascends to the Father.
 - a. Their response: Worship & joy. The proof has been witnessed, their mission given.
 - b. This is only the beginning, not the end.
 - i. This Fall: "Accelerate" (Acts). Those who resonate with Jesus are accelerated by the Holy Spirit to become the missional community called the Church.
- 2. Frequency Check: Are you a witness? Not simply a casual observer, but one who experiences Jesus?
 - a. Is His amazing redemption story being written into your life story?
- 3. Resonance Check: Are you a witness? Do you experience Jesus' power through His Spirit to transform your life & share God's story through your story into other's story?
 - a. The plan of this faithful, gracious God is to redeem people by the power of the Spirit through you.
 - b. It's all about Jesus; it's only about Jesus; it's always about Jesus.