

Intro. The home of Paul Laurence Dunbar, noted poet, is open to the public in Dayton, Ohio. When Dunbar died in 1906, his mother left his room exactly as it was on the day of his death. At the desk of this brilliant man was his final poem, handwritten on a pad. After his mother died, her friends discovered that Paul Laurence Dunbar’s last poem had been lost forever. Because his mother had made his room into a shrine and not moved anything, the sun had bleached the ink in which the poem was written until it was invisible. The poem was gone. If we stay in mourning, we lose so much of life (Henry Simon, Belleville, Illinois at sermonillustrations.com). There’s no telling how long the women in Jesus’ day would have mourned over Him had it not been for the resurrection, but they would find out what read life is all about. Today, we look at Luke 24 on “Jesus & the Scriptures on His Death & Resurrection.”

Theme: Jesus’ resurrection

Background: After a few short years of Jesus’ ministry, religious leaders incited the crowd to call for Jesus’ death, even though He had done nothing wrong. After Jesus had died on Friday, some of His followers hurriedly buried Him before the start of the Sabbath that evening.

➤ Let me share with you 3 **Lessons to Learn from Luke 24:**

I. Jesus & the Scriptures are worth trusting, especially about His suffering via crucifixion & His glory via resurrection (24:6-8, 19-27, 44-46)

- Too many scholars & believers were looking for a reigning Messiah on His throne of glory but they failed to see the only way He would ever reign in glory was first to suffer in death so that He could rise again, ascend to heaven, reign over all & return in His glory
- Also on this observation, notice how Jesus’ words about His suffering, death & resurrection were completely consistent with what the Scriptures already said (through Moses, the Psalms & the Prophets, even His own words in Luke 9:22; 18:33)—He may have used Joseph as a type of suffering Messiah as well as Psalm 22; Isaiah 53 & Zechariah 12:10; on the resurrection He may have pointed to Exodus 3:6; Psalm 16:10; Jonah

Illus: One of the ways you discern the true faith from a cult or false religion is when the leaders contradict what their so-called scriptures say. For example, think of the following:

- ✓ Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons (LDS)—said Jesus would be born in Jerusalem (Alma 7:10), but it was in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); in multiple places, Joseph Smith said murder was forgivable (Alma 39:6; 3 Nephi 30:2), but he later said it was unforgivable (D&C 42:18); Joseph called the multiple wives of David & Solomon “an abomination before” the Lord (Jacob 2:24, in 1830 when he had but one wife) only later to say they did not sin by having multiple wives (D&C 132:38-39, on July 12, 1843, at which time he had over two dozen wives, arranged with fathers with the promise of greater glory in the afterlife)
- ✓ Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses—claimed to be the “faithful and wise servant” to explain Revelation (Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, vol. 7, *The Finished Mystery*, 11) & the angel/messenger of the church of Laodicea (ibid., 53) but he was a false prophet who wrongly predicted the date of Jesus’ return multiple times
- ✓ Mohammad, founder of Islam—Allah cannot be seen by mortal man (Surah 6:101-103; 42:51), but Mohammad saw him (53:7); Mohammad wrote girls are not to be taken as wives until they reach “a marriageable age” (4:6), which is defined by Muslim scholars as 15 years

old, but Mohammad was engaged to a 6 year old with whom he consummated when she was 9 (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 5, Book 58, Number 234 & Volume 7, Book 62, Number 64)

II. The Scriptures are worth studying for salvation (24:30-35; cf. 2 Timothy 3:14-15; 4:11)

- Luke understood how knowing & studying the Scriptures can lead to salvation, because not only did the two in Emmaus have their hearts burn (probably as part of their conversion) but also because he was with Paul (2 Timothy 4:11) when Paul wrote his final letter to Timothy about the sacred writings able to make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (3:14-15)

Illus: Numerous big name testimonies point to their conversion by reading & studying the Bible, whether it is St. Augustine who read Romans 13:13-14 (hearing a girl sing, “Take up & read”) or Martin Luther reading Romans 1:17 on “the just shall live by faith” or John Wesley who read the preface to Luther’s commentary on Romans & had his heart “strangely warmed” by studying the Scriptures—the same can happen to you!

III. Only the risen Lord Jesus offers forgiveness of sins through repentance (24:45-47; cf. Acts 4:10-12)

- The only way you can go to heaven & have eternal life is to have a right standing with God. The only way to have a right standing with God is by trusting in Jesus & having your sins forgiven. The only way to have your sins forgiven is to repent/turn away from your life of sin.
- Jesus stressed that in His teaching & a few months later, Peter claimed Jesus as the only way (Acts 4:10-12)

Illus: Too many preachers today stress only the need to believe in Jesus but they don’t say anything about the necessity of repentance from sin (turning away from your old life)—that’s been labeled an “easy-believism” salvation & if you have bought into that lie, you’ll find out you aren’t on the path to heaven but the path to hell, because forgiveness of sins is only granted by Jesus via repentance

Illus: Most critics say such thinking is too narrow, but these are in accordance with Jesus’ own words (John 14:6) & the words of the apostles

Conc. Unless you have been hiding under a rock the last few months, you are well aware of ISIS as the latest group of Islamic terrorists who have persecuted & killed Christians & their families in Iraq, Syria, Egypt & now Kenya. They think they have put those people to an end, but Muslims don’t understand the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ—because He died & rose again, so all those who die in Jesus will be raised to life. Though they were put to death for their faith, the world was not worthy of them, just as the world was not worthy of the faithful Israelites in the Old Testament (cf. Hebrews 11:36-38). You, too, can be part of the future resurrection by turning from your sins & trusting in Jesus, for He died for your sins and rose to prove He is the Messiah & the hope of the world!