

Jesus' Imperative 40 days on Earth after Rising from the Dead

Intro: I feel like we pastors treat Easter like the Christmas tree. We bring it out, we have it displayed, and then when it's over we pack it away and then wait for next year and bring it out again.

Let's just linger on Easter and the aftermath, just for today.

Read Acts 1: 1-8

Acts 1:3 is the only place that tells us that the period between the Resurrection and the Ascension was **precisely 40 days**.

It was an **imperative time**: all important, vital, crucial, of great consequence, necessary, indispensable, urgent

The **number 40** seems to have special significance in Scripture: Forty is associated with almost **each new development in the history of God's mighty acts**,

- The rains fell for **40** days and **40** nights before Noah's flood (Genesis 7:4).
- Moses spent **40** days in God's presence on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 24:18).
- The 12 spies spent **40** days exploring the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:25).
- A Generation wandered in the wilderness **40** years (Numbers 14:32).
- Jonah warned Nineveh of coming judgment in **40** days (Jonah 4:4).
- Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for **40 days –the beginning of his ministry** (Luke 4:2)
- Jesus appeared to the disciples for **40 days** after his resurrection—the birth of the church (Acts 1:3).

You might say it this way: When you see the number forty, pay attention because it usually means that God is about to do something significant in the world. It's like 40 days and a new beginning :

And so we come to the **last days of Jesus Christ on the earth**. For 33 years He has made the earth his home. Now the time draws near to leave. We're beyond the cross, past the suffering, the torture, the mocking, and even beyond the resurrection. We're in that mysterious forty day period that we'd like to know more about.

Christ is leaving soon, not to return for at least over 2000 years. No longer does he speak to thousands but now to only a few. To them is entrusted the responsibility to take the message around the world. To them is given the Gospel—the good news—the best news in history. **And he has only 40 days to accomplish this enormous purpose**

Soon enough the incredible burden will fall on their shoulders alone. **If they fail, the Christian movement will disappear before it ever begins. In human terms the future of the gospel is in their hands.**

Knowing all this, what does Christ talk about? The weather, sports, the latest gossip from Rome? Hardly. He tells that little band of men **what they need to know to make it after He's gone**.

During the 40 days between the resurrection and his ascension into heaven, he **accomplished two important goals:**

- He proved that he was alive.
- He prepared them for the future.

We may sum the lessons from those 40 days in three simple statements.

1. Believers have no doubt that Jesus Christ is really alive

Luke tells us that he showed himself alive by "**many convincing proofs.**" The phrase "convincing proofs" comes from a Greek word found only in Acts 1:3 in the New Testament. We know from other instances in ancient Greek that this word means to present a case so logically compelling that it may be considered as completely proved. **In a court of law this word referred to an argument so overwhelming that no other conclusion could possibly be considered.**

The King James translation of this verse is tremendous. It says he showed himself alive by "many infallible proofs". That phrase "**infallible proofs**" means that the proof of the resurrection **is certain and sure**, unquestioned and beyond any doubt. It is testimony that could stand up in any court of law—Jesus Christ actually rose from the dead

This is the most stupendous claim in history. Christians believe that a man **has come back from the dead**. People just don't rise from the dead.

But Acts says we have "**infallible proof**", something more certain than hearsay, something better than a rumour. We have incontrovertible evidence that Jesus is alive today no matter how people try to disprove his resurrection

In Acts 1 Luke offers three proofs that Jesus rose from the dead:

- a) Jesus **appeared to them**. The Greek word for "appeared" is **ophthalmia**—which means the eye or the eyeball. (We get the modern word Ophthalmology—the study of the eye and the treatment of eye diseases—from this Greek word). In modern terminology, Luke is telling us that the disciples "eyeballed" Jesus. They looked him over in great detail, examined his wounds, and satisfied themselves that it was the same Jesus they had known and loved.
- b) **Jesus spoke with them**. He talked with them about the kingdom of God and prepared them for his departure.

c) Jesus ate with them.

Luke 24:36 – 42 tells us that when he appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem, they were frightened and thought he was a ghost. He invited them to examine his wounds and see for themselves that he was real. **If you ever want to prove to someone you rose from the dead ask them for something to eat**

Here are three truths to remember about the Resurrection. It is the ...

- Bedrock/Anchor of our faith.
- Answer to our doubts.
- Reason for our hope.

It is the same Jesus. He has the same heart, the same tenderness. Death has not destroyed his personality or rendered him somehow unrecognizable. It is the same

Jesus they had known during all the days and months and years they spent together. Not some other person, and not the same person somehow changed. But the same person they had known and loved, the same Lord to whom they had committed themselves.

. But when Jesus appeared to his disciples, they were persuaded to believe it was really him in part because he exhibited the same personality they had known so intimately.

2. His death brought hopelessness in his followers that day but his life gives hope to all followers then and today

Let's stand back and take the 4 gospels plus Acts and examine these 40 days between the Resurrection and the Ascension:

1. After his death Peter got cold feet but He **restored fallen** Peter and re-commissioned him to feed his sheep – a rhema word
2. At the grave Mary was weeping but He **encouraged and gave her hope** John 20:11-13
3. He welcomed **doubting** Thomas and said don't be faithless anymore: John 24: 27
4. The two disciples on the way to Emmaus **was down** and contemplative but he set their hearts of fire and he explained the scriptures to them Luke 24:32
5. After his death the disciples were frightened, **startled and doubtful** who met behind locked doors but he ate with them and gave them peace. Luke 24:35
6. Some of The disciples thought **that their mission had ended and returned to fishing** but they had toiled and caught nothing but Jesus asked them to cast the net on the right side of the boat and they caught so much fish that their nets were heavy with 153 good ones . Empty nets to full ones) John 21
7. He fed the disciples by cooking breakfast for them by the Sea of Galilee. He did this in spite of the disciples deserting him what does that tell you – fellowship **and friendship are important to** Jesus
8. He met the disciples on a mountain in Galilee and He **speaks of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God Acts 1:3**
And then commissioned them with one **simple mandate to go out into the world make disciples** matt 28, Mark 16
9. He commands the disciples to wait in **Jerusalem for the baptised with the Holy Spirit so they could be effective witnesses Acts 1**
10. he did **many other signs in the presence of the disciples**-many other things that makes John comment that he supposed that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written

3. Our work is to continue to preach the Kingdom of God

- Jesus brings hope to the lost the fallen the broken hearted
 - He brings answers to the doubting Thomas's
 - He brings peace to the frightened and dismayed
 - Jesus brings purpose to the discouraged who thinks their mission in life is over
 - Jesus brings friendship and fellowship to the lonely and despised
 - Jesus gives us power to tell others the good news –it's a double barrel
- The **Holy Spirit gives us power to speak the word** but the good news of the gospel is **also the power of God**

CHALLENGE Jesus didn't stay another 40 days for nothing .In fact nothing about the cruelty of Easter was for nothing .Those 40 days were imperative crucial for you and I just as it was for the original disciples .It is when we become a part of his body and **it is in Him we live and move and have our being**

We are not apart from Christ –We are in Christ

Because Jesus is alive, we have a message worth sharing. We go to a home that is breaking up—to a man caught in the grind between pressures at home and pressures on the job. To a partner bored with life who thinks an affair is the only way to grab a little gusto. To a student who feels pushed by her friends to lower her standards. To the lonely, the confused, the guilty, the hurting, the rebellious. We've got the message they need. We go with confidence because we have a living Christ living in us by His Spirit.

SALVATION PRAYER.

Jesus came to give you a life of abundance
He came to forgive all your sins so you don't have to live with guilt and shame
He wants to now fill your life with love, joy, peace & goodness and much more
He wants to give you the opportunity to live forever

But there is one thing you have to understand is that sin, will destroy your life .You cannot play with sin, neither can you get rid of your sins on your own .You must repent of your sins

All of us have sinned and fallen short of Gods expectation and there is only one person who can save us and make us right again. His name is Jesus and you can ask him right now to come in and be the Lord in your life

If you invite him into your life everything in your life turns from death to life, sin to salvation, hopelessness into everlasting joy
I can guarantee that if you do, your life will be so more meaningful and filled with purpose and a sense of destiny!

Would you like to ask him into your life right now?

PRAY PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Sermon Prep review
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