



***What did the Scriptures say were necessary?*** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Luke 24:44–53 prepares us for the sermon in Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these twelve verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that just as necessary as Jesus’s suffering and rising again from the dead is Jesus’s making repentance and forgiveness to be preached in His Name to all nations.

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**Saturday, December 4, 2021 ◻ Read Luke 24:44–53**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What had Jesus spoken to them, and when (v44)? Where were there words concerning Him? How many of them had to be fulfilled? What did He do to them (v45a)? For what purpose (v45b)? What was written and necessary (v46)? What must be preached (v47)? In what? To whom? Beginning where? What role do the disciples have in this (v48)? Who sends the Spirit (v49)? What is the Spirit called in v49? What are they to do? Until when? Where does He lead them (v50)? What does He do there? What happened while He was still blessing them (v51)? What did they do (v52a)? Where did they go (v52b)? With what attitude? Where were they (v53)? When? Doing what?*

It may be surprising to us that the Lord Jesus apparently doesn’t teach the apostles anything new at this point. Rather, He reminds them of what He had said before (v44a) and leaves them to those words, the words of the Old Testament Scriptures (v44b), and the coming ministry of the Spirit (v49a).

What they needed wasn’t more information but rather more understanding of the information that they had. And this the Lord Jesus gave them in a marvelous gift: “He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”

What a glorious gift! Here is the thing to ask for the Lord. As helpful as commentaries and devotionals can be, they are not ultimately what we need. For, it is the Bible itself that the Lord has given us by which to work in us. And it is especially the Word preached by which He gives faith and grows faith.

What we need, then, is Him Himself. We need Him to open our understanding.

And this is what He would send the disciples to do: preach repentance and forgiveness in the Name of Christ (v47a) as the witnesses (v48) of all that the Scriptures teach about Christ’s death and resurrection (v46).

We see how completely this depends upon the work of God Himself by the command for them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem (v49b). Tarry? Wait?! Didn’t He just finish saying that this preaching must go to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (v47b)?!

But it isn’t just preaching that people need. It is the power of God attending that preaching. The power of the Holy Spirit, “the Promise of My Father,” was absolutely necessary. There would be no point in preaching without it.

But He had just exercised that power upon them. They had come to understand about His death and resurrection from all the Old Testament. So, when He has blessed them and departed (v50–51), they immediately begin acting upon what they have come to know. He is gone from their sight, but still they worship Him, for they know that He is God the Son, Who is rightly to be worshiped (v52a). They return to Jerusalem with great joy (v52b), knowing both that they have been redeemed and that this was exactly where He had commanded them to wait. And they go continually to the temple, praising and blessing God (v53); it is no longer the dangerous home turf of their enemies, but that structure that God had designed to point to Christ!

How do you recognize/express your need for God’s powerful working in your Bible-reading and sermon-hearing?  
How are you responding to the fact that Jesus is God and that His redemptive work has been accomplished?

*Sample prayer: Lord Jesus, we worship You who are very God of very God. Forgive us for our dullness toward You, even in Your Word. Open our understanding, so that we would comprehend the Scriptures, so that our lives would be full of worshiping You and rejoicing in You, which we ask in Your Name, AMEN!!*

**Suggested songs: ARP99A “Let the Nations Tremble” or TPH356 “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

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**For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpcHAH](http://bit.ly/harpcHAH)**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Luke 24, verse 44, through 53. These are God's words and he said to them, these are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you.

That all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning me. And he opened their understanding that, they might comprehend the scriptures and he said to them, thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.

The third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name, to all nations.

Beginning at Jerusalem and you our witnesses of these things Behold I send the promise of my father upon you but Terry in the city of Jerusalem until you are indeed with power from on high and he led them out as far as Bethany and lifted up his hands and blessed them.

Now it came to pass while he left them that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven and they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy and we're continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

So, The Lord Jesus has finished his work of atoning for sin of being the substitute in our place, who suffers and dies. The, the penalty that our sin deserve that our sin demanded and yet, although he is done atoning for sin. He has not done with all that is necessary to be done.

Redemption has been accomplished For many even up until this day. As we sit here around this table, it needs still to be applied. And the way it's going to be applied, is in the second part of the things that were necessary. Look at verse 46. He says it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.

So that's the first big thing that was necessary, but there's second big thing. He describes in verse 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name, to all nations. Beginning at drizzle So repentance and permission of sins. Repentance. Forgiveness must still be preached in Christ's name to all nations.

This was to begin at Jerusalem. When we come next week to start the book of Acts, We will find Luke who wrote this gospel and the book of Acts picking up on that two big parts of the work of Christ aspect. He says that in his former book, this volume this book that we are finishing now.

The gospel of Luke. He gave an account of all that Jesus began to do and to teach. So he says, when you get to the end of the gospel of Luke, It is a beginning. And so this encourages the disciples that Jesus by the same life and power in which he died suffered and died and rose again from the dead is now going to sustain them and gonna sustain His church as they preach in his name, repentance and remission of sins to all nations.

Now, a couple of things that they need in order to preach this properly, the first is understanding of everything that the Old Testament taught about how the Christ needed to suffer and die and about how repentance and forgiveness would come to all the nations through the Christ. That's why you starts out in verse 44.

He says these are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you and all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning me Now. That doesn't just mean the book of Psalms The Hebrew Bible at that point and still to this day.

If you get a Hebrew copy of the Old Testament is divided into three sections. The law Genesis through, Deuteronomy the profits. Which includes the non-poetical books from Joshua to Malachi and the writings, which includes the poetical books? Ruth, I think being in the rights, if I remember correctly and others, like Job, and Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes some Solomon,

Okay, so law, profits and writings are here as he says law profits. And Psalms He's talking about every book, the whole Old Testament. It's very interesting that when Jesus is going to give them instruction concerning the kingdom, he doesn't teach them new things. He teaches them the Old Testament.

He opens their understanding verse 45, that they might comprehend the scriptures. Those things that we're already written down at the time. So, that's one big thing. The understanding of the Old Testament scriptures and it's a reminder that even when they come to teach and to preach the Old Testament scriptures and what they are given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately the success of teaching and preaching rests upon the Lord, opening the understanding of the hearer for you, when you are a Hearer, the success of your hearing rest ultimately upon the Lord, opening your understanding. So yes, by all means listen as well as you can. In every little detail, many of you have worked on things like turning your shoulders so that they aim at the shoulders of the preacher and lifting up your face so that it aims at the face of the preacher and then your stereoscopic ears that God perfectly oriented on the sides of your head will be best positioned for hearing the preacher and that you keep your eyes focused and you put distracting thoughts out of your mind and all of those things.

And yet, even if you were to master those things, even if you were to take a class on active listening for understanding, and master, all of the mental processes by which we listen as excellently as possible. Ultimately, God is the one who must bless her to you. The Lord Jesus must open your understanding to himself.

And so you pray before and you pray after, and you listen prayerfully, asking the Lord to give you understanding. What is said. So for the spread of the gospel, the preaching, in Jesus's name of repentance and remission of sins, to all the nations. Beginning at Jerusalem, He gives his apostles understanding

of all of the scriptures concerning these things.

He opens her understanding, but even with him having opened their understanding, he tells them, they still have to wait, verse 49, behold. I send the promise of my father upon you but Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. Now, two things are gonna happen.

Then When the Lord Jesus, pours at the Holy Spirit one is they will know that he has taken his seat at the right hand of majesty because that is the place from which he pours out his Holy Spirit. And number two, they will know who it is. Who has poured out his spirit.

This is another of the many definitive proofs in Scripture, that Jesus is God. No creature. Has the authority to pour out the spirit who is God Himself. The third person of the Trinity. And so surely, if the spirit of God is God than the son, who, pours, out the spirit who sense the Spirit is.

Also God, it would be blasphemy. If the highest archangel were said to pour out the spirit of God, only the Lord God can do that. And Jesus is God, having added humanity to himself but now and that humanity in which he died, he is also risen. And his humanity is glorified and in his resurrection body, now he takes the seat that belongs to him from all eternity as God.

And what she has also rightfully earned in his finished, a toning work. As the mediator we're going to see in the next book and acts how necessary it is to follow. Jesus's instructions, Peter. God bless him. It's gonna make a mistake because he doesn't wait for the power from on high.

He has understanding of the scriptures, but it doesn't follow the instructions. We, we must do things according to the Word of Him, whose power alone is our hope. We've been looking at that or considering the end of Colossians 2 in the beginning of Colossians 3 about how no man-made ideas.

However, otherwise, well-informed or appearing, spiritually wise can give spiritual power. Only God Himself, can do us any spiritual good and so we must follow his instructions. Very carefully as we wait upon him and trust him to use that, which he has a pointed. So he's gonna send the spirit.

So he uses their understanding of the scriptures, the opens their understanding, and he employs them by his spirit by the power of His Spirit and he himself then blesses them. You led them out as far as Bethany and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. Now, if you did not know before you just found out why when the preacher comes to the end of the worship service, and he is going to dismiss the people of God send them forth from the presence of God, with the blessing of God.

He imitates. The high priest. Aaron numbers chapter 6, he imitates the great high priest to the Lord. Jesus, Luke chapter 24 verse 50 and he lifts his hands. He pronounces the blessing of God upon the people of God. Now we do that. The preachers do that. As those sent by Christ here, Christ himself shows that he is the one who blesses came to pass, while he blessed them that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

So the last glimpse that these apostles would have for about a week between this day and Pentecost The last glimpse of the Lord Jesus, that have would be the Lord. Jesus blessing them and they would know a week or so later when the Holy Spirit came down upon them, that it was this same Jesus who had said the same spirit with his blessing.

Now we too we have baptism and which the water is poured out on earth. We cannot visibly. See the Holy Spirit poured out. He does not come upon us as a dove or as a tongues of fire. So we cannot see that but we can see and feel even water which is poured out on earth, a sign of what the Lord Jesus does from heaven.

A seal of the power and a certainty of what Jesus accomplishes by what he does, from heaven and giving his spirit. I'm told though the man in the pulpit is not the Christ. Yet, as he stands in an office assigned to him, by the Lord Jesus and lifts his hands to bless you.

You can know that every bit as really and truly as that men stands in the pulpit, the Lord Jesus sits on the throne of glory and he himself blesses you, He blesses, you as God, the Son who created all things and to upholds, all things by the word of his power.

He blesses you as the god, man. God, the Son, who has become the mediator, whose death has counted for you, who believe in him whose resurrection, as what gives life to you, who believe in him, The Lord Jesus. Sits in glory. He works in us. Just like the Scripture said, it was necessary that he would die and rise again.

Just like the Scripture said it was necessary that he would empower the preaching of repentance and forgiveness to all the nations. So also just as surely he is the one who blesses the preaching of this word and who gives the working of His Spirit to those whom he is saving and we can be sure that Jesus what Jesus began to do in his life death and resurrection.

What he continued to do in the ministry of the Apostles. So he will keep doing until the last day when he appears in glory. So we listen to you, this passage Lord helping us that we'll hear for each tomorrow and we should respond as they do and verse 52.

They worshiped Him. They worshiped Him and returned Jerusalem with great joy and we're continually in the temple praising and blessing God that we have some other work that we have to do six days a week. They were told to wait They just had that one week or so to wait But because they weren't given anything else to do, They went to church the whole time as it were and they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

Shortly. This would have had some effect on those who thought that six weeks prior the leader of this group had been brutally crucified by the Romans, and why are they in the temple? Continually praising and blessing. God. We too, who are sure of Jesus's life and death. And resurrection, we who are sure of Jesus being the one who by His Spirit, worked through the Apostles, We who are sure that Jesus is still, the one right works in his church works.

In us. We should worship him. We should be full of joy and every opportunity we have especially on the day that is consecrated for it. We should be gathered as His temple offering him, praise and blessing as we wait upon Him for the power that he sends from on high that power upon which we depend.

Let's pray. Oh Lord. Jesus how appealing the good news of your power for us is when we feel our weakness more acutely, forgive us for when we feel less needy of you or when we less feel your abundance, for our need of you blessed to us. We're baptisms. And every baptism we have ever seen in your church, reminding us that you physically gloriously sit on the throne of majesty and that you are working by your spirit.

Help us. We pray open hour. Understanding Make us to know from all the scriptures, Old Testament and new the necessity of your atonement. The necessity of your sending forth by preaching to gather in and perfect those for whom you died, make us to be sure of your power and our very own lives and our very own church.

Glorify yourself. We pray by the work that you do and make us to live lives of worship and praise and blessing for. We ask it in your name, Amen.