

Title: MISSION: FROM MEETING TO MINISTRY, LUKE 24:1-12.  
(Chatham, NJ; 04/04/10, AM) [D – Topical]

Theme: The purpose of the new life afforded by the resurrection is that we should be raised to walk in a new way of life.

Purpose: To challenge us to move from being a meeting-oriented church to being a ministry-oriented church; Christ taught us that we were created for good works (Titus 2:11-14).

Introduction:

1. At the gravesite Peter was initially perplexed by the turn of events.
2. As the disciples later put the pieces together, it changed not only their thinking but the very direction and effort of their lives.
3. The new people/new life designation is best explained and demonstrated by concrete behavior change, much of which differentiates Christians from prevailing trends.
4. The resurrected life equals the following...

I. To Walk as He Walked, 1 John 2:4-6.

A. Peter preaches Christ to Cornelius, Acts 10:34-43.

1. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit, 38.
2. He was killed, but he came back from the grave. We are witnesses, 39-41.
3. Peter characterizes his ministry thus: "...he went about doing good," 38.
4. The idea of good encompasses more than healing and miracles.

B. John insists that Christians walk as he walked, 1 Jn. 2:4-6.

1. Obedience is the first level of walking as Christ walked.
2. Love is the second level.
3. Love in deed not merely in word is the third level, 1 Jn. 3:18.
4. Self-sacrifice is the basis of this new behavior, 16.
5. A great paradox of our faith is that new life grows from sacrifice.
6. Rather than cling to ourselves we learn to give ourselves away.
7. It requires doing good to others.

II. Dedicated to Good Works, Titus 2:11-14.

A. Dramatic change for Crete.

1. Elders are those who had attained to the best characteristics representative of the Christian faith, Titus 1.
2. In contrast to the general tenor of the community.
3. First, there were those of the circumcision group, 1:10.
4. Second, they are described in uncomplimentary terms, 1:13.
5. Third, their lifestyle does not accord with their profession of faith, 1:16.
6. They are unfit for any good work.
7. No genuine change affected them.

B. A sound doctrine of good works.

1. Sound doctrine, 2:1, issues in good behavior.
2. Titus must be a model of good works, 2:7.
3. Christ redeemed us to be "zealous for good works," 2:14.
4. He emphasizes it again in 3:8; we must devote ourselves to good works.

5. This was to be behavior modification at its best.

### III. The Meaning of the Resurrection.

#### A. To make new people.

1. C. S. Lewis once said that Christianity was not meant to make nice people, it was meant to make new people.
2. We can tell more by what people do than by what they say.
3. Ephesians 4:25-29 illustrates the new people/new life transformation.
4. Don't lie; tell the truth, 25.
5. Dispense with anger, 26.
6. Stop stealing; engage in honest work (in order to give to those in need), 28.
7. Avoid corrupting speech; build each other up instead, 29.

#### B. Meetings and Bible studies must by design lead us to ministry, and more than anything else ministry should characterize our church.

1. Salt does not fulfill its purpose by staying in the salt shaker.
2. Light does no good to the house if it is put under a bushel.
3. A ship may look grand docked in port, but ships were made to sail.
4. During WWII it was said that Britain experienced a shortage of silver for the war effort. When Churchill was told there was lots of silver used in the making of statues of saints in the churches, he retorted, "Well, it's time to put the saints into circulation."
5. We were never meant to shy away from the world; we meet to prepare ourselves to be salt and light and to be in circulation.
6. If our meetings don't produce that, then there is something amiss.

#### C. A new king, a new kingdom, and new rules.

1. Jesus was Herod's worst nightmare come true; he was a threat to all world kingdoms.
2. He was the Sadducees worst fears realized; Christ in fact did steal the hearts of the people.
3. The new found faith was cause for jealousy among the Jews, Acts 13:45; rather than rejoice at the fulfillment of God's promises, they rejected the inclusion of all people into God's Kingdom.
4. We are a counter-culture in a dieing world.
5. We have new rules that demand new living.

#### Conclusion:

1. Peter's confusion turned to determined action after Pentecost.
2. What the new life of the Resurrection meant became abundantly clear.
3. He said in 1 Peter 2:12, "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable."
4. The Resurrection gives us hope for new life beyond the grave, but while we wait it also demands good works here.