

Everything Must Be Fulfilled

- **Vs. 44a.** Very late in evening on first Easter Sunday. What day been! That morn at daybreak, pious women travel to tomb, only to find stone rolled away, tomb empty. Jesus is gone! Suddenly two brightly shining angels standing next them. “Risen from dead! Go tell disciples!” Women scared stiff. But somehow legs beneath them start move; hustle back to disciples. Out of breath, barely get out: “Tomb’s empty; were angels; Jesus risen!” “What!?” It’s too much for Peter/John; dart for tomb. John gets there first; investigates. Peter barrels in. It’s true; tomb’s empty; Jesus gone.
- That afternoon, different duo disciples is trudging along the dirt road that leads to village of Emmaus, when suddenly a certain passerby joins their commute; the three converse about local news, talks of res. Sun low in sky; time to eat; dine together. During meal, this nameless traveler pulls back veil. It’s Jesus! And with jaws still dropped, suddenly disappears. “Woah! What just happened?” Next comes a sunset sprint back to city; find discs. “Never believe what just happened!” And it’s rollercoaster of emotions in that dark room, as candles flicker, as does faith of fearful flock of Jesus’ followers.
- **Vs. 36-37.** Of course scared; man was crucified, buried; but there he is! **Vs. 38-39.** I’m picturing handshakes, hugs, happiness. And I’ve always loved how in middle of this joyful reunion, Jesus asks for snack, like college kid home from school (“Hey Mom, got anything to eat?”) – but of course for purpose of proving that he was really alive. And after midnight snack, as fear/shock were giving way to peace/joy & renewed faith, the disciples huddled around their Master, and it was time to teach – time for Jesus to continue Bible study he had started that afternoon on road to Emmaus, when had said, **“How fooling you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Lk 24:25-27).** That footpath Bible class continues now as an evening lecture in a candlelit classroom, as Teacher says **vs. 44** (what we’d call OT). **Vs. 45;** so could understand that all OT prophecies re Messiah – they all point to Jesus, they’re all fulfilled in Jesus.
- What Bible study that must have been! Wish could’ve been fly on wall that night, heard Jesus connecting dots between OT passages and himself! Maybe brought up:
 - Gen 3, Garden Eden, A&E sinned; promised Eve’s offspring crush serpent’s head; Jesus on cross.
 - Passover lamb, blood doorframes, save from death; Jesus Lamb of God, blood saves us death.
 - Whole OT priesthood, all sacrifices; Jesus our GHP, sacrificed himself for us once for all.
 - Moses (Dt 18), Lord raise up for you a prophet from among your people; Jesus that prophet.
 - Jer 23, raise unto David righteous branch, king reign wisely; Jesus king, born from line David.
 - David wrote Ps 23 (Lord Shepherd); Jesus said I am Good Shepherd.
 - Talk Jesus birth – Isa says: virgin with child (Mary/Jesus); to us child born, son given, gov’t on shoulders (Jesus). Micah says Bethlehem. Numbers calls him star coming from Jacob.
 - Isa 60 talks re Magi coming. Hosea 11: Jesus being kept safe as baby in Egypt, when Herod killed all baby boys, which Jer 31 talk about. Isa 9: Galilee as center for Messiah’s ministry.
 - Haven’t said anything yet re Jesus’ Passion: Ps 22 one of clearest messianic prophecies re Jesus’ suffering/death, with incredible detail. Ps 22: My God, why forsaken? (you’ve heard that). Pierced hands, feet (you know what that means). Divide garments among them, cast lots for my clothing (saw that on GF). And when you read Isa 53 re Suf Servant, just take you right to cross.
 - Of course, OT predicts Jesus’ res. Ps 16: You will not abandon to grave, nor let Holy One see decay. Ps 118: Stone builders rejected, capstone; I will not die but live, proclaim Lord done.
- I could go on/on with all kinds examples of messianic prophecy, but then this sermon go on for hours. Besides, I think we get point: entire OT points to Jesus; Jesus is fulfillment of all prophecies, promises of Messiah. And that’s what Jesus was teaching his disciples that Easter evening when said: everything must be fulfilled (EMBF)!

- **Vs. 44. “Must be.”** What mean? Means: this wasn’t accident, coincidence, happenstance. This was God’s plan! God planned for our salvation to be carried just way happened; things unfolded exactly how God intended. **EMBF**, bec when God has plan, sticks to that plan. And his plan was for Jesus to be crucified, rise from dead to save us. So that’s what had to happen; was God’s plan.
- Or another way talking re OT prophecies: they are God’s promises. God’s sovereign plans are also his gracious promises of love. So really, whole OT is one big promise. God says: “I’m going to fix your problem of sin, send you Savior, send my Son. He’s going live among you, die for you, take away your sins; he’s going defeat death for you, guard you and guide you as your GS.” OT is the promise; Jesus is promise kept, proof that God loves you. If God didn’t love you, wouldn’t make these promises, surely wouldn’t keep them; he’d be God of threats, punishment. But no: God is promise maker, promise keeper. And that’s what Jesus was driving at when said: **EMBF**.
- Now, not everything has been fulfilled yet. Jesus: **vs. 46** (happened); **vs. 47a** (happening). And will cont to happen until last day. See, Jesus promised he would: come back on last day (hasn’t hap yet); judge living/dead (hasn’t hap yet); raise all people from dead (hasn’t hap yet); bring all believers home to heaven (hasn’t hap yet). So not everything has been fulfilled yet. There are more promises yet to be kept.
- But I believe them bec, **EMBF**. Jesus has always kept word in past; I have no reason to think he’ll fail me in future. Doesn’t lie. Not like someday we’ll die, stand before God, and he’ll say: “Sorry. You actually bought that whole Jesus thing?! Just big hoax! Too bad for you.” No. One of greatest lessons of Easter is that God is promise keeper. And Easter is greatest promise ever kept.
- And that was point of Bible class Jesus taught on night he rose from dead. **Vs. 44a**.

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”