



Sermon – December 26, 2021

Phillip Bethancourt

Verses Covered This Week

Luke 24:25 – 27, 44 – 47

1 Peter 1:10 – 12

John 16:13

Galatians 3:8

I want to invite you to grab your Bibles with me. We're going to spend out time this morning in Luke 24, Luke 24, as we get ready to enter into the new year. And if you're a guest with us for the first time today whether in the room or online, welcome home. We are coming to hear Jesus and to take His words and to feast on them, to partake of God's heart for us today. And that's going to allow us to set the stage for 2022. We've just come out of an encouraging Advent season where we've seen God at work in our midst during this time. And as we enter into January, I want you to know that we're going to be stepping into a new sermon series in January, working our way through the book of Genesis. And I am so excited to dive into the Old Testament with you. As a matter of fact, this will be our first time since I've been your pastor that we're going to be working through an Old Testament passage in our Sunday morning services. And so what I wanted to do today is to get behind that, to get underneath that, to ask ourselves the question, if we're going to work our way through the Old Testament, how should we understand it? Because, I don't know about you, but when I come to the Old Testament, sometimes it's hard to understand. It's hard to make sense of what's happening. It feels different. There are sometimes controversial things that are going on. Or there is a lack of clarity about how it applies to our lives today. And wouldn't it be amazing if we could hear Jesus' heart for the Old Testament. If we could understand the way that He saw it so that as we step into this series it can shape us. And that's exactly what we're going to find today from Luke chapter 24.

So when we come to this text, I want to frame it up through this question. If you could go back in time, imagine you had a time machine that could take you back to any moment in world history, what would you want to be a part of? What situation would you like to experience? Where would you like to be? Now when some of you think about that question, you answer it from a historical perspective. You think, "Man, I'd love to go back and be a part of that first fleet of ships that came over and discovered the new world with Christopher Columbus." Or,

“I’d love to be sitting right there in Independence Hall as the Declaration of Independence was written or signed.” Or, “I’d love to be right there on the beaches of Normandy as we prepared for that invasion at World War II.” Or for some of you hardcore A&M football fans, “I’d love to go back to 1939 and be there in that moment when we won that National Championship.” It could be any of those historical moments. And maybe for others of you, it’s not a historical moment but a personal moment. You want to go back and be there when your grandmother and grandfather said, “I do” at that wedding ceremony that launched your family tree to what it is today. Or others of you would say that you would love to go back and re-experience that last moment you had with that family member or best friend right before you lost them. And maybe you would have made more of that conversation, more of that moment, because you knew it might be your last. What would that moment be for you? If you could go back in time to any moment in history.

Well, the answer to that question for me would be this experience we’re going to read about right here in Luke 24. So think about what’s happening in this part of the passage. The resurrection of Jesus has just taken place and there’s this conversation that’s relayed. This moment is not some sort of controversy or celebration, but a conversation that’s taking place. There are these two men, these two followers of Jesus that are walking down the road to this unknown town named Emmaus. And this unrecognizable man comes up and begins to talk to them. And they are baffled by the fact that he hasn’t heard what has gone on with Jesus. And they begin to share about him what’s taken place. And one of the things that they say is that there’s been rumors that are out there that this one who had promised to be the Messiah has risen from the dead. That He has come back to life. And what we’re going to find here in the text is that Jesus now speaks to these disciples. And in the midst of this conversation, it picks up in verse 25 as he speaks to them. And what we’re going to find is right here one of the most important conversations in the entire history of the world. Where Jesus unlocks the meaning of the Old Testament for us. And what we’re going to find this morning as we work our way through Luke 24 is that Jesus is going to show us that Jesus is the focus and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. So let’s see the way he talks about it here beginning in Luke 24 in verse 25. Here’s what he says:

²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Let’s pray together.

Father, that’s the desire of our heart this morning. To focus our heart’s affection and our mind’s attention on the things concerning Jesus. And in the same way that He interpreted and explained these realities to these disciples on the road to Emmaus, I pray that You would do it in our hearts as well. That You would help us to see Jesus in the Old Testament more clearly so that we might know you more fully. Lord, that’s the desire of our heart today and we pray it in Christ’s name. Amen.

So notice here in this first passage that we’re working through, Jesus speaks about how He is the focus of the Old Testament. And that reminds us of the reality that every time we open our Bible, we open it with a choice to make. Are we going to look at the words of God and think to

ourselves that this is a book primarily about us or a book primarily about Jesus? And he's confronting that exact question right here in this passage. He's addressing this very issue. And he could not be more clear. This whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation is a word about Jesus. He is the focus of the Old Testament. And if that's true, then we need to see several realities of the way that he speaks of how the whole Old Testament focuses on Him. And you'll notice there right at the start of this text in verse 25, we see the intensity of Jesus about the Old Testament. So look at these words he uses there. He speaks to these followers and says, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken!" Now, if you're familiar with your New Testament, in the Gospels, Jesus will occasionally with harsh words like this. But normally they are reserved for His spiritual enemies. Those that are resistant to Him. But that's not the case here. He is speaking to those who are followers of Him. And how does He talk about them? He calls them foolish ones, slow of heart. It's like the same way you think about it when you watch people having arguments in the comment section of a Facebook post. You see that foolishness, that slowness of heart, that they're dug in, they're unwise, they're slow to believe, they're slow to embrace these realities. Jesus is saying that's true of these followers themselves. Why? Because they missed it. They have studied these Scriptures and yet they do not see the focal point is on Jesus, the Messiah.

And we all got to celebrate Christmas yesterday and as the night was finishing up our family was checking in with other members of our family from around the state to see how Christmas went. And one of our family members, when we were finding out how their Christmas experience went, relayed to us that they had received a gift, they opened it up, unwrapped it, took all the packaging off it, they opened up the box, the wrapping was there, the packaging was there, the instructions were there, but and this Apple watch they had been given that they were most excited about, when they lifted that lid, guess what. There was no watch in the box. It was missing. It was gone. And someone had not only stolen this thing, they had stolen it in such a way that they put the packaging back together, re-wrapped it to give it the appearance as if it was never missing. It had all the things around it but because it didn't have the key element, it was of no value. And that's why Jesus is operating with such intensity when he speaks about the Old Testament. He's saying that you can search the Scriptures, that you can know about God without actually knowing God. You can be in proximity to Jesus without actually knowing Jesus. You can learn from God's word without truly knowing God's word if you miss the reality that Jesus is the focus. If He is not at the center of our understanding of the Scriptures. That's why Jesus operates with this intensity.

But you'll notice as the verse goes on that intensity gives way to an inquiry. There's a question right there in verse 26 that shows us the necessity of Jesus for the Old Testament. Look at what verse 26 says. He says, "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" He shows us here that the Old Testament's focus on Jesus is not optional, but it's essential. That it is necessary in nature. Why? Because the entire Old Testament is a messianic document, laying down markers, pointing ahead to the coming of a Messiah that Jesus is telling us is now fulfilled in Him. If you want to hold your place here in Luke 24, you can follow up on the screens from 1 Peter chapter 1. I want you to see the way that Peter speaks about this reality. Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer and to receive glory? These two sides of the same coin. Listen to how Peter explains it here. 1 Peter 1 beginning in verse 10.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ was in them indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

So what does he say there? Look back at verse 12. He is saying that the prophets predicted the suffering and the subsequent glories of Christ. Exactly what Jesus is speaking of here in Luke 24. It was necessary for this Messiah to suffer so that He might enter into His glory. In other words, Jesus is telling us that suffering is the pathway to glory. Humiliation is the pathway to exultation. That's the picture that the Old Testament is giving us as it focuses us on Jesus. But look at what he says here in verse 27 as he builds upon this question. You see the way that the Messiah speaks about the centrality of Jesus and the Old Testament when he says it like this.

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

And this, this right here is the part of the conversation where if I could go back in time and experience any moment in world history, this is where I'd want to be. Could you imagine the God of this universe, the One who took on flesh, the maker of it all, the architect who brought it all together helping us to understand the blueprint, to know the Scripture, to show us the truth. It tells us from Moses through the prophets, he's speaking about the whole Old Testament, Jesus lays it bare for them. Every Sunday when we're gathered here for worship, we have our Hispanic Ministry here with us. And some of our Hispanic Ministry, English is not their first language. And so what we do is we offer a Spanish language translation for those who need it. And to my Hispanic amigos with us, "Levante tu mano" right now. Let me just see you in the back there. There are several of you that are watching me preach but listening to this sermon in another language. And in real time, there's a translation taking place, an interpretation that's going on. And what that interpreter does is it takes the word that comes from me and makes it known to them in their heart language. So that they can understand it and be changed by it. And what we find here in this text is Jesus, the interpreter of the Old Testament. And at the heart of his interpretation is the reality that Jesus is the center of the Old Testament. He begins to speak of all of these things that find their focus in Him. He explains it so that at last we can truly understand it. I don't know about you, but when I look at this text I've got a temptation in my heart to be frustrated, to be disappointed, to think to myself, "Man, if I could just go back then, if I could just hear these words, if I could just have the Old Testament explained to me by the lips of Jesus Himself, then I could understand my Bible better. Then I could trust God more. Then I could follow Him more faithfully. But here's what we need to remember. We may not have Jesus beside us, but if we've met Him in a saving way, we have Jesus inside us. His Spirit at work, illuminating His word, explaining His word, interpreting His word. That's why John in John 16:13 has this to say about the role of the Spirit helping us to know the Scriptures. He says:

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,

Jesus walked on that road with the disciples and made the Old Testament clear to them. And by God's grace, His Spirit can still work in that same way today for each one of us. That's why

when we start in January our journey through Genesis, one of the challenges that I'm going to make every time we gather together on a Sunday for the sermon and every time you open up the Bible on your own, one of our prayers should be that God would give us an open mind and a softened heart to hear from Him. That His Spirit would guide us into all truth. That we would recognize and see that Jesus is the focus of the Old Testament. He's the framework of the Old Testament. He is the future of the Old Testament. That's what he's showing these disciples here. I didn't just bring my normal Bible with me this morning. I also brought this one with me. Anybody recognize it? The Jesus Storybook Bible? I see some parents. Anybody own this one, have it at home? OK. I think my Bible here is held together more by tape than it is by the original binding. There's something here in the very first chapter of this book that I just think captures Jesus' heart so clearly that I want us to hear these words from Sally Lloyd Jones in the Jesus Storybook Bible. If you're not familiar with it, this Bible is intended for, to help young children and their families see how every passage of Scripture finds its fulfillment in Jesus. And here's the way she talks about the word of God in the opening chapter of this book.

Now some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should do and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about what God and what He has done. Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. (And it's got this whole grouping of Old Testament saints right here) The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose), they get afraid and run away. At times, they are downright mean. No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a story. It's an adventure story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne – everything – to rescue the ones he loves. It's the most wonderful of fairy tales that has come true in real life! It takes the whole Bible to tell this story. And at the center of the story, there is a baby. Every story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle – the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together, and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.

And this is no ordinary baby. This is the child upon whom everything would depend. This is the child who one day would make this story a reality. That's the picture that Jesus is giving us here in this moment. The entire Old Testament is focused on Him. He is the missing piece of the puzzle. And if we come to God's word and bypass Jesus on the way to it, we are missing the heart of what God is showing us through His Scripture. Jesus is the focus of the Old Testament.

But I want you to look down with me a little bit further in Luke 24 because later on in this passage, we're going to see a second reality that Jesus makes clear. It's not just that Jesus is the focus of the Old Testament, we also see beginning in verse 44 that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. So follow along with me in what he says here. Starting down in verse 44 it says:

⁴⁴Then he said to them, (he's speaking to all the disciples now) "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalm must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should

suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament and to make that connection let's just remember what's happened from the first passage we read until now. So Jesus walks on the way to Emmaus with these disciples. He begins to explain the Scriptures but they still don't recognize Him for who He is. And as they are walking, it becomes late into the night and these followers of Jesus convince Him to stop and to stay with them. And maybe they're tired or maybe they're concerned about the danger of travel at night and they and they are sharing a meal together. And what we find is that during that meal, Jesus opens their eyes to see Him for who He actually is. And they are stunned that they have been talking to Jesus this entire time. And right after that He vanishes. And what happens is immediately after that these same followers who were either too tired or too scared to go on pack up all their belongings and they race back to the disciples. You can imagine them coming back to them and saying, "You will never believe the conversation we just had! Jesus appeared to us. He explained the entire Old Testament." And as they are standing there speaking to the rest of the disciples, here comes Jesus himself. He enters into the room. He feasts together with them on fresh fish. And as that is happening he speaks these words over them about the way that He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. And what we find here in this portion of the passage is that there are several ways that the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in Jesus. You'll notice there beginning in verse 44 that the first thing we see is that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. So look back there at the way it talks about it. These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you. That everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. And you see that phrase there at the start of the verse, that I was already speaking these words while I was still with. In other words, Jesus is not giving some new direction, new instruction that is fundamentally different from what He said. Instead, He is taking those same truths and is speaking it into their lives in a fresh way. And what is that reality? What is the purpose of what He is sharing there? You see in verse 44 that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. That's the key. He says the reason He's come, the reason He is making these things known is because He is the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament. What God promises, He performs. What God declares, He does. What God commits, He completes. That's the picture of fulfillment that Jesus is giving here. And just think about some of the examples that we find in the Old Testament, of the way that Jesus fulfills all the promises of God.

Think all the way back to the Garden. Jesus fulfills the promise to Adam in Genesis 3. He succeeds where Adam fails. He keeps obedience where Adam sins. He crushes the head of the serpent and He is fruitful and multiplies through the church. Jesus is the new and better Adam. Think about the promise to Abraham in Genesis chapter 12. That one day God will make Abraham a great nation. And what we find is Jesus is the true and greater Abraham who comes from heaven and enters into a far country, who keeps the covenant and receives the blessings of that covenant so all the peoples of the earth might find their blessings in Him. The true and better Abraham. Or imagine the picture that God gives to Moses, the promise that's there in Deuteronomy 18. That one day God would raise up a prophet like Moses. And here comes Jesus, the new and better Moses, who comes down from the mountaintop of heaven, bringing the words of God; not on tablets of stone, but through His own lips. Who leads His people out of Egypt into a new Exodus in deliverance from their sin as the new and better Moses. Or the way

that 2 Samuel 7 offers a promise to David. That one day God would raise up a son from David whose kingdom shall know no end and king after king after king follows David and falls short of that design. But here comes a king, a son of David, who takes on flesh, who lives the life that none of those kings could, who lives the perfect way to complete the fulfillment of the covenant and receive the promises so that he might establish a kingdom with no end. That's our King. That's the promises that Jesus fulfills. Remember back decades ago when I was a child and we were working on Christmas lights back at home. It was a lot simpler time back then, wasn't it? Not some of the bells & whistles there are today. There was no inflatables, there was no icicle lights or rope lights or LED lights. There are a lot of things we have now that were missing back then. But one of the things that wasn't missing back then, impatience with the process, right? Because you remember those old light bulbs, the way it would work, you'd get it all set up and you'd go to plug it in and what might happen some of the time? They wouldn't come on. And why is that? Because all it takes in those old lights lines is one bad bulb to destroy it all and you'd have to, like Clark Griswold, go back and check every bulb and make sure that it was workable in hopes that you could finally get it working. One bad bulb ruins the whole line. And when Jesus speaks here of the way that He is the fulfillment of all the promises of the Old Testament, that same reality is being put to the test. Because if even one of God's promises was made and it fails, if even one expectation from God is said about the coming Messiah that He doesn't fulfill, if there's even one bad bulb in the promises of God, this is not our guy, this is not the Messiah, this is not the One. Which is why we should be gripped by the way that Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:20, no matter how many promises God has made, they find their "yes" in Jesus Christ. Every one is fulfilled; every promise.

But that's not the only reality that Jesus fulfills because you'll see there beginning in verse 45 that Jesus is also the fulfillment of the pattern of the Old Testament. That's why it says there,

⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

In other words, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament not just in what He does, but how He does it. Through His death and His resurrection. Both in the promises He preserves and in the patterns that He performs. And how does Jesus make this known to His followers? What happens there in verse 45? Imagine this moment. Look back at what it says:

⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

We know what that saying means; to open someone's mind. To take someone who was closed off or hardened or resistant to a truth and now through your words to open them up to see things in a different way, to understand them more clearly. That's what Jesus does for them. And that's the way He is still at work in our lives today. It is only by the Spirit of God that we can have our minds opened to know God's word. To see this pattern fulfilled. To see the way that God is at work. That was true in the life of the disciples and it is true in us. And what we have here in Luke 24 is a great reversal from what has taken place all the way back in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 3. Because you remember when Adam and Eve are tempted by the serpent to sin, one of the things that Genesis 3:5 tells us is that he opened their eyes to see the delight of the fruit. That same idea, opening the eyes, opening the mind, what happened to lead us away from God and our sin, Jesus now brings about to bring us back to God to see the way

that He is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament. And with that in mind, we need to recognize all the ways that this Old Testament promises, these Old Testament realities are pointing forward to the fulfillment of this pattern; through death and resurrection comes deliverance. It's what we find over and over again in the people, the events, the rituals, the institutions of the Old Testament. They are pointing ahead to a coming Messiah who would accomplish the deliverance of God through these patterns that are set down over time. So Jesus is the temple. He is the new Exodus. He is the Passover lamb. He is the one who is sacrificed on the day of atonement. Each one of these things desired to point ahead designed to show us this pattern that Jesus now fulfills.

But I want you to not miss one last reality in the text back in verse 47. Yes, Jesus fulfills the promises of the Old Testament. Of course, He fulfills the patterns of the Old Testament. But notice with me last that Jesus fulfills the purpose of the Old Testament. That's what we find right there in verse 47. He tells that repentance for the forgiveness of sin should be proclaimed in His name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. You see, one of our temptations when we look at the Bible is to treat the old and the New Testament as if they are so different it's hard to explain how they fit together. That one, think about the Old Testament, it just has a different setting, different characters, a different time, a different feel, a different language than what is happening in the New Testament. It can feel as if there is this separation between the two. But what Jesus makes clear right here in verse 47 is that He is the fulfillment of the purpose of the Old Testament. And that Old Testament purpose is exactly the same as what we find in the New Testament and what is it? That all nations beginning from Jerusalem might see and know Jesus in a way that drives them to repentance and forgiveness. In other words, what's that purpose? The purpose of the Old Testament is a graceful purpose. That's why He speaks there of repentance and forgiveness. Here's what I know. Right now at the end of the year, between Christmas and New Year, it's one of those times where for many of us the world slows down. You take a second to look back at where you've come from this year and to look ahead to where you're going. To think about what needs to be different, what you want to change, what you want to see in your life, what do you need to turn away from. And this word repentance right here in its most literal meaning is a turning away from sin and a turning to God. And saying, by the power of Your grace, this time things will be different. And he is saying there that all the way back from the Old Testament, the message that God was sending, the purpose for which His Scripture was going forward was a message of repentance that leads to forgiveness. That when we turn from our sins, God meets us in the deepest parts of the darkness of our disobedience, in the shadows of our shame, and He rescues us. He offers us forgiveness that can only be found in Jesus, not in any other name. It is a graceful purpose.

But look at how this text finishes. It's not just a graceful purpose but a global purpose. That's why it tells us there that it should be proclaimed in His name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. All the way back from the Old Testament, the heart of God is for all people to know and to trust Jesus. That's why Galatians 3:8 has this to say when the apostle Paul speaks about this global purpose, even captured in the Old Testament. He says this:

⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

So what's this text telling us? It's saying to us that even before Abraham existed, God had a global purpose in mind. That the Gentiles might also find salvation. Or as Jesus says it here in Luke 24:47, that this Gospel would be proclaimed to all nations. That you and I are called as we step into 2022 to carry out that global purpose. Now if you were with us a couple of nights ago on Christmas Eve, you heard me share this story about a near miss our family had. We had gotten a gift for one of our boys, but it was missing a key piece to it that showed up right on time in a way that we least expected it. And I've had several of you since then say, "Are you ever going to tell us what the gift is?" And now that I don't have to risk spoiling it anymore, I can finally share with you what it was. See our oldest son, Nathan, whose a middle schooler is just about the only middle schooler in his school that did not yet have a cell phone. And we've watched God at work in his life to shape him into a young man that we believe is ready to step into that responsibility. And so we had had a family member give us their old phone and we had everything we needed for the phone itself. But the one piece we were missing, the one piece we needed, the one piece that would keep it from operating in the way it was intended was the SIM card and we didn't have it. And so here Christmas was inching closer and closer and that SIM card, that key component that allows you to make phone calls and receive them, to send text messages and receive them wasn't there. And if it was missing then the phone might have the appearance of value, but it could not function in the way that it intended. Sure, it might be able to snap pictures, or listen to music over the Wi-Fi or operate some of the apps or the games that might make their way on there. But at the core of what it was intended to do, it could not function if this one key thing was missing. That's Jesus' words to us this morning. That we can come to His word, we can come to His church, we can grip ourselves with the story of Scripture, but unless Jesus is at the center, there is something missing. Unless Jesus is at the heart of our study next semester of Genesis, unless He is at the heart of our study each day when we come to God's word, unless He is at the center of who we are here as a church, then we are missing the picture that He is giving to His disciples and to us. See, Jesus cannot be more clear to us this morning as we prepare our hearts to step into 2022. That He is the focus and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. He's the author and perfecter of our faith and for the joy set before Him, He despised heaven, He came to earth, He suffered in our place, He rose from the grave so that you and I could follow Him all the days of our life regardless of the challenges ahead. And that's why we should close our time in a word of prayer this morning.

Father, have your way among us. We want to know You more. We want to see You more clearly. We want to see Jesus high and lifted up. And I pray that as we finish one chapter, one year, and step into a new chapter and a new year, and if people are searching for a fresh start, God, my prayer, Lord, for them and for me is that You would be the center of our lives. That You would be the focus. That You would be our place of fulfillment. That You would be our source of joy. And that You would help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and not on the things of this world. And we ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.