

UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS: THE MISSION OF JESUS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

UNSTOPPABLE "A BIG DEAL" - Rev. Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: April 5, 2026

Text: Acts 13:23-39

He is RISEN – and that changes EVERYTHING!

What if the resurrection isn't just a moment in history... but the key to the BEST DEAL you could ever make? In Acts 13, Paul unpacks the truth of Easter: Jesus didn't just rise from the dead, He offers you a life-changing exchange. Your sin for His forgiveness. Your pain for His peace. Your past for a brand new future. It sounds too good to be true... but it's not. It's the REAL DEAL!

To many, the deal was 'too good to be true.'

- Some people didn't understand what Jesus was offering
- Others didn't believe Jesus was who he said he was (Son of God), or that he could do what he said he could do (forgive sin and rise from the dead)

Proof for the Resurrection:

- Hundreds of eye-witnesses within the scriptures, still alive at the time for reference checks - 1 Corinthians 15
- Multiple Jewish & Roman historians outside scripture document these claims: Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian of Samostata (skeptical mocked them for it), Maimonides
- *"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death for you."* C.S. Lewis

It's hard to accept a deal sight unseen - John 20:29

The Criminal's deal - a crazy, lowball offer! - Luke 23:42,43

- It doesn't matter who YOU ARE, where you've COME FROM, what YOU'VE DONE - Your life for his is a deal Jesus will make every time!

LUKE 24:1-3, 5-11

They didn't find Jesus' body, but the tomb wasn't empty - Jesus had left something behind for them:

- The tomb wasn't empty – there's HOPE in the tomb
- The tomb wasn't empty – there's PEACE in the tomb
- The tomb wasn't empty – there's FORGIVENESS in the tomb
- There's LOVE in the tomb
- There's GRACE in the tomb
- There's HEALING in the tomb
- There's STRENGTH in the tomb

An enemy who wants to steal your deal - 1 Peter 5:8



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

“Best Deal / Worst Deal”

Go around the group and have everyone share:

- The BEST deal they’ve ever gotten (a crazy bargain, unexpected win, etc.)
- The WORST deal they’ve ever made (buyer’s remorse, total letdown)

Study & Discussion:

Read Acts 13:23-29

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Why do you think people (then and now) struggle to believe the resurrection or what Jesus offers? Have you ever felt like the Gospel sounded “too good to be true”?

3) Read Luke 23:42,42 - What is most surprising about the “deal” Jesus made with the criminal on the cross? What does this reveal about God’s grace?

Read Luke 24:1-11

4) Jesus has everything you need: It was a powerful moment of response represented by the different key tags - which of these things appealed most to you in season of your life?

- Comfort / Love / Joy / Freedom / Forgiveness / Hope / Peace / Faith / Grace / Healing / Wisdom / Strength

Prayer:

