Welcome to BC Resurrection Sunday. Jesus is risen! What a special day. Today, with millions around the world, we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though Resurrection Sunday comes but once a calendar year, we can live in resurrection power every day. Our topic today is to help us not just to acquire faith to believe in the power of the resurrection but to kindle a fire burning within our hearts, so that we too, set out at once saying …It is true! The Lord has risen … Luke 24:33,34.

1 What happened on the first Resurrection day?
   a) Jesus had resurrected and appeared to 3 groups of his disciples
      • The women carrying spices to the tomb Luke 24:1
      • The 2 disciples walking to Emmaus Luke 24:32
      • The 11 disciples and others gathering in Jerusalem Luke 24:36
   b) What was the problem with Jesus’ disciples after the Resurrection?
      • Discouraged and downcast, their hopes that Jesus would save Israel, were dashed when He was crucified Luke 24:20,21
      • Defeated and disbelieving in the Lord’s Resurrection even after the women’s report about the empty tomb (the very thing which pointed to the Resurrection), had no impact on them.
        … how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken Luke 24:25,26
        (spiritual dullness and failure to believe)
      • Doubted Jesus’ resurrected appearances to them
        … they were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds? Jesus
showed them His hands and feet. And while they still did not believe...He asked them, do you have anything to eat? Luke 24:37-38, 40-41

2 How did Jesus use Scriptures to correct His disciples’ unbelieving hearts

a) Jesus explained to the 2 disciples how Scriptures focused on Himself
   ...beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself Luke 24:27

b) Reminded the 11 how the Scriptures were fulfilled by His death and resurrection
   ...everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of, the Prophets and the Psalms...Then He opened their minds so Moses they could understand the Scriptures...That is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations...You are witnesses of these things ...Luke 24:45-48

c) What about personal encounters with Jesus?

The disciples had been with the Lord for 3 years, yet Jesus used Scriptures as foundation to build faith. Jesus helped them to acquire faith in their darkest hour of doubt and despair through the Scriptures

...Behold I come, in the volume of the book it is written about Me Psalm 40:7

3 What Scriptures did Jesus use to change the disciples’ perspective of the Resurrection?

   He would talk about Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice, details of which paralleled what He Himself came to fulfil 2,000 years after Abraham’s act of obedience in Genesis 22
   - Abraham instructed by God to offer his only son Isaac foreshadowed God offering His only Son for the world’s sins.
   - Abraham to go to Mt Moriah. 2,000 years later Jesus was crucified at Golgotha which is the highest point in the land of Moriah.
   - Abraham rose early the next morning, having prepared the knife, fire/wood. As father and son journeyed on, Abraham must have struggled to answer his son’s question: Father where is the lamb for the sacrifice? Only God could provide the Lamb for the sacrifice.
   - Abraham raised his hand to kill Isaac but stopped just in time by the Angel of the Lord who provided a ram for the sacrifice.
   Abraham released his son for the ram had become his substitute. 2,000 years before Calvary, God had already planned that His Only
Son would go to the same mount, be sacrificed at 3pm as a substitute for all of us.
b) Is this a story about Abraham?
No! It is about Jesus
...what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself Luke 24:27
• The difference is that for Abraham, it was a test because he had a substitute. God had no substitute for His own Son
• Jesus was God-forsaken on the Cross because of our sin. Jesus cried: My God, My God! Why have You forsaken Me? God had to turn His face away from His own Son because of our sin heaped on Him.
• Just as Isaac submitted to his father, so Jesus submitted for there would have been no Resurrection without His sufferings.

Application
How shall we live in the light of the Resurrection?
a) Pray for your eyes and mind to be opened
...not foolish and slow of heart to believe Luke 24:25
...know His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power...which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead...Ephesians 1:19,20
b) Receive God’s grace to warm our hearts with His Word
c) Act on the how-much-more of Jesus’ death by serving God
...how much more, then, will the blood of Christ ... cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9:14