

## Day 1- Luke 24:1-12

1. Try to imagine the hopelessness and grief these women were feeling as they went to the tomb. What three surprising things did the women find in verses 2-4 when they went to the tomb?
2. How did the angels gently rebuke the women in verses 5-7?



Jesus had told them more than once what was going to happen, but they never grasped it; and we are even told in 18:34 that the meaning of what he was saying was hidden from them. But now in God's perfect timing was the beginning of understanding. Verse 8 says, "and they remembered his words." What sweet mercy was given in the darkness of their grief and pain. They remembered his words—the words of Jesus poured out like cool water on their parched souls, like a healing balm on a throbbing wound.

What a privilege we have, to have all the words that God wants us to know and remember written down for us in his word! And as believers, we now have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who helps us remember what Jesus has said to us (Jn. 14:26). In dark times of grief and confusion we will not understand all that God is doing, but we must turn to God's word and remember what he has said to us. Then we must cling to his promises in faith regardless of what the circumstances look like.

- ❖ How can you help your sisters in Christ remember Jesus' words when they are going through a dark and confusing or frustrating time?
- ❖ What promises do you cling to during those dark, confusing times?
- ❖ We are so apt to forget what God's word says in those hard times. What can you do in the good times that will help you remember God's word in the bad times?

3. When the women told the disciples what had happened, what was their poor response in verse 11?

Scholar's Note: "A grand truth that emerges from this story, as it does in none of the other Gospels, is that the disciples did not invent the resurrection story. At first, they neither understood it or believed it." <sup>1</sup>

"The unbelief of the apostles is one of the strongest indirect evidences that Jesus rose from the dead. If the disciples were at first so backward to believe our Lord's resurrection, and were at last so thoroughly persuaded of its truth that they preached it everywhere, Christ must have risen indeed. The first preachers were men who were convinced in spite of themselves, and in spite of determined, obstinate unwillingness to believe. If the apostles at last believed, the resurrection must be true."<sup>2</sup>

"...it seems that Luke's goal is not so much to interpret the meaning of the resurrection for us, but rather, to establish its reality and historicity on the basis of solid, eyewitness testimony."<sup>3</sup>

4. Many translations of verse 12 say that Peter left the tomb *wondering* what had happened. How did God redeem even the disciple's initial disbelief for his purposes?

#### Day 2- Luke 24:13-27

5. As often happens after a tragic event, two of Jesus' followers were walking and talking together about the circumstances that were consuming their thoughts. What merciful thing did Jesus do in verse 15?
6. What mysterious thing happened in verse 16?

For Discussion: Why do you think Jesus may have kept the followers from recognizing him?

7. What does Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, do in verse 17?

8. What obvious good news did they express to Jesus in verses 21-24, but in their doubt and disbelief would not see?

9. Instead of rejecting them for their doubts, what did Jesus do in verses 25-27?



How tender and sad are Jesus' words to his doubt-filled followers. "O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe." How often does he say this to us? It is foolish to be slow to believe so it follows that it is wise to be quick to believe. Proverbs tells us the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fear of the Lord and being quick to believe are related. When we fear the Lord, we treat God as...GOD. That means we give God everything he deserves— praise, honor and reverence, but also our trust. He deserves to be believed because he is God and he never lies and he is powerful and able to carry out what he has promised.

We will have doubts; we will be slow to believe at times, but we have a wonderful counselor who listens to our doubts and points us to his promises. All the promises of God find their yes in Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20).

- ❖ How do you deal with your doubts?
  
- ❖ Have you ever thought of being *slow to believe* as foolish?
  
- ❖ How do you know that as a believer you are not condemned when you have doubts? (Rom.8:1)
  
- ❖ How has God ever relieved you of a doubt?

Day 3- Luke 24:28-35



Verse 28 tells us that as they drew near to the two follower's destination, Jesus acted like he was going farther. Why would Jesus act like he was going farther? At first that doesn't seem to fit with who Jesus is. But as J.C. Ryle points out "Jesus loves to be entreated by His people."<sup>4</sup>

Now that makes sense. Don't we want our children and friends to desire to be with us? Isn't it a delight to hear your children say, *stay- I want you to be with me*. Only Jesus' desire is without any trace of insecurity or neediness. His is a pure desire of wanting us to know the joy of desiring

him and having that desire filled. It is a wonderful pleasure to love and desire someone who is not only delightful and life giving, but also loves and desires you.

We have a relationship with the living God. He wants his beloved children to ask for him, to tell him we love him, to look to him to provide our needs. Psalm 81:10 says, "...open your mouth wide and I will fill it." How much of his precious provision and presence do we miss out on because we don't look up and ask?

- ❖ Do you tell your heavenly Father and your Savior that you love him?
- ❖ What are ways you personally show God you love him?
- ❖ Why do you think God has chosen to work through our prayers (our asking) to provide for us?

10. What effect did Jesus' presence have on his followers in verse 29?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 *"I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve."*

-What tidbit of information do we find in verse 34 that is corroborated by Paul in the verse above, but not mentioned in any of the other gospels?

-Why do you think Jesus came to Peter first, before showing himself to any of the other 10 disciples?

11. What was their response in verses 32-35 to truly seeing Jesus?

Day 4- Luke 24:36-53

12. Thinking about all the disciples had experienced in the last few days, what do you imagine were all the doubts and things that were troubling them when Jesus appeared in the room with them?
  
13. How is Jesus' greeting to them in verse 36 significant; how has Jesus achieved peace for them in the present and also in the future?

For Discussion: What robs us of peace? How can Jesus' resurrection restore peace in your heart over the situations you mentioned?

14. How does Jesus relieve their doubts in verse 39-43?

Picture and Ponder: "It is crucially important that you believe that the resurrected Jesus was not a mere spirit or apparition. The bodily resurrection means that Jesus' death really has paid for our sins and defeated our death. If his spirit had been alive but his body had stayed under the power of death, his victory would have been partial, and our future would be partial too."<sup>5</sup>

15. How does Jesus again remind them in verse 44 that his death and resurrection were God's plan from the beginning?
  
16. How does verse 45 help us to know what we should be asking for as we read God's word?



- How has the theme throughout Luke of Jesus reaching out to the lowly and outcast impacted you?

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<sup>1</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p. 839

<sup>2</sup> Ryle, J. C.. *The Gospel of Luke* by J. C. Ryle (J. C. Ryle Collection Book 8) (Kindle Locations 7097-7100). Pribrary Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> McKinley, Mike. *Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading* (God's Word For You Book 14) (p. 177). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> Ryle, J. C.. *The Gospel of Luke* by J. C. Ryle (J. C. Ryle Collection Book 8) (Kindle Locations 7151-7153). Pribrary Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> McKinley, Mike. *Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading* (God's Word For You Book 14) (p. 188). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

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