

## 4. Jesus Appears to the Disciples

**Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29; Acts 1:3**

### **Luke 24:36-49**

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “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.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

### **John 20:19-29**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, <sup>[a]</sup> Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, <sup>[b]</sup> was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## The Resurrection in Scripture

The Gospels show a relatively small amount of information about the resurrection of Jesus. The vast focus of the Gospels is on the life and ministry, and the death of Jesus. The main part of the narrative then seems to end with the crucifixion of Christ.

This makes sense, actually, when we look at the entire message of Scripture.

- The story of the Bible is the story of God who loves and provides for the race of man while we rebel against Him.
- The story of the Bible is the story of God judging sin because He is Holy and cannot allow sin to go unpunished.
- The story of the Bible is the story of a God who is gracious and provides a sacrifice for sin that we cannot provide.
- The main message of the Bible is about sin, judgment and the price of dishonoring God.

So the main message of the Gospels would be about the sacrifice of Jesus – That’s the point. He took our place. Jesus came to earth to die for our sins and to be the sacrifice that we could not be, to live the life that we could not live, to pay the price that we could not pay. That’s the point.

But the story doesn’t end there – and as if God pulled back the curtain of all of eternity for a little glimpse, we have the resurrection account in the Scripture to give us an understanding that death is not the end of the story. God created us to glorify Him, and to love Him, and if the price was paid for our sin with Jesus but Jesus was not raised, then the story of man would too be over at death. If physical death was the end of the story, then this whole story would have accomplished nothing for God. He created us to worship Him, and the resurrection of Christ shows us that there is more for us too – a small glimpse into the eternal future an eternal future with the one who created us.

The resurrection is a small part of the Gospels, but a huge part of our destiny. Look at the chart below that shows the portions of the Gospels that reference actions of Christ post resurrection.

<b>Book</b>	<b>Life</b>	<b>Final week</b>	<b>Resurrection</b>
Matthew	25	2	1 (7 verses about Jesus)
Mark	13	2	1 (10 verses about Jesus)
Luke	21	2	1 (41 verses)
John	11	8	2 (44 verses about Jesus)

## Proofs of the resurrection

We know, however by a mountain of proofs that this event occurred.

1. These references to the resurrection are more than most would consider are needed to be regarded as historical accurate.

2. The evidences of the actions of the disciples – a scared band of fisherman turned into a fearless band of martyrs that changed the world. They would not have done this based on a lie.
3. The references to verifiable accounts many still living in the scriptures would not have happened if there were no persons that would have verified. (1 Corinthians 15:6 – he appeared to more than 500 people)
4. The lack of evidence of the presentation of a body of Jesus.

## The significance of Christ's resurrection

The significance of Christ's resurrection cannot be understated. His resurrection shows us that the price of sin was paid and accepted. If Jesus died and paid the price for our sin, but was never raised then what good was his death? What's the difference?

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 that if Christ was never raised then we (believers) are fool, wasting our lives following something that simply robs us of the life and time that we have to enjoy our existence.

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope<sup>[b]</sup> in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

We die physically because we have sinned, but the punishment of our sin was taken from us by the death of Christ. His death paid that price, and his resurrection, and new body show us that when the price of sin is paid and accepted there is a new life after that death. We will experience that new life as well because Jesus was raised.

## The Disciples disbelief

The disciples had been told many times that Jesus would die and rise from the dead, but when he was arrested, they all ran, and two days after his crucifixion they were locked in a room afraid, troubled, and full of doubt. At least two of his followers were on their way back home – given up. They had no idea what to do and they were full of fear and disbelief. Jesus shows up and

addresses their disbelief, but then takes the time to show them all of the Scriptures that point towards himself.

Jesus demonstrates the Gospel in how He responds to the disciples after His crucifixion. He was met with dis-belief, doubt, fear, and desertion. He saw his disciples at perhaps their worst moments, and he immediately forgave them and helped them, showed them, and taught them.

Look at the disciples on the road to Emmaus – they were leaving it all behind. They, perhaps thought that all of this Jesus stuff was a trick, a rouse, that they had believed in error. Look at what they say, “But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” They were disappointed in Jesus because He did not do what they wanted him to do. He did not conquer or redeem Israel the way they had thought. Jesus response is simple, He addresses the wrong (sin) of doubt, and fear and lack of understanding and faith. Then immediately He comes alongside them and teaches them all of the Scripture concerning Himself.

When He appears to all of the disciples in the upper room he finds the same setting. They were Startled, afraid, troubled, had doubts and disbelieved. He addresses their disbelief.

Mark 16:14 - Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

Then immediately

**Luke 24:44-45** -<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “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.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

Jesus dealt with this disbelief in His disciples then helped them to understand and to believe. He cared about their fears and their doubts. He took the time to show them. He ate for them to see and believe.

## The Gospel... For us.

So many time we hear the Gospel message is for the lost. We think that the grace of Jesus is for the sins of the unbelievers, and that the blood that was spilled for you covered your sins at salvation, but look at the disciples and how Jesus deals with their doubt and disbelief. He confronts it, we cannot allow sin to go unaddressed, but then immediately He shows his love for them by taking the time to teach them and show them the things that they doubted.

Many times in the Scriptures there are commands that we cannot possibly match up to – even after our salvation.

### *Love God First*

Luke 10:27 - And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

### *Store up Treasures in Heaven*

Matthew 6:19 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

### *Don't be anxious*

Matthew 6:25;32-33 - "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

### *Anger*

Matthew 5:21-22 - "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

### *Lust*

Matthew 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

### *Retaliation*

Matthew 5:38-42 - "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

### *Love Your Enemies*

Matthew 5:43-44 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Jesus doesn't condemn his disciples for their disbelief, and His power to forgive and help is not limited to conversion only. He opened their eyes so that they might see and believe, and He has power for our lives today.

**Psalms 103:8-14** - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Psalms 108:8-14 tells us that He is compassionate and loves us in spite of our weakness – and most important of all, he remembers what we are, just made from dust, and He knows our limitations. We are not here to walk the Christian life alone. We are here with Jesus, who loves us and will help us and correct us (as needed) but never leave us or forsake us. He came back from the dead to show us His sacrifice was enough to forgive us, then in perhaps one of the most amazing moments of all of history, he took the time to sit and talk, to teach, and to eat fish so that the ones he loved would believe.

1. Read the following passages and describe the disciple's emotions and feelings as they were in the room when Jesus appeared

**Luke 24:37** Startled & freighted                      **John 20:19** fear of the Jews

**Luke 24:38** Troubled & had doubts                      **John 20:20** glad

**Luke 24:41** disbelieved, marveled                      **John 20:21** in need of Peace

2. Although Jesus told the disciples many times of his death and resurrection they did not remember or think of it during this time. Read the following passages that Jesus also tells his disciples that could apply to us in a similar way today.

**Matthew 24:9-13** - <sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away<sup>l</sup> and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**Matthew 10:16-24** - <sup>16</sup> “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup> and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. <sup>20</sup> For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup> Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

3. Jesus appeared and knew their fears and responded to them by first addressing their fear and doubt, then by lovingly showing them his hands and feet as proofs of his resurrection

and by eating fish in front of them. Jesus did not condemn them for their disbelief, but reassured them, twice telling them (in John) Peace be unto you. Read Psalms 103:8-14 and discuss below God's response to the sins of those who love him.

**Psalms 103:8-14** - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

4. The significance of Christ's resurrection cannot be understated. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and discuss the implications of if Christ had not risen from the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19** - <sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope<sup>[b]</sup> in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.