

Resurrection of Jesus – Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13

Appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection: These are appearances as recorded in Scripture. In reality, we really don't know if He appeared to others. Appearances #1-5 happened Resurrection Sunday.

1. Mary Magdalene at the tomb – John 20:11-18
2. Woman leaving the tomb – Matt. 28:9-10
3. Two followers on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-32
4. Peter – Luke 24:34
5. 10 of the 11 disciples – no Thomas – Luke 24:36-43
6. 11 disciples – Thomas (8 days later) – John 20:26-31
7. 7 disciples at the shore of Galilee – John 21:1-25
8. 500+ disciples and followers in Galilee – I Cor. 15:6
9. James the brother of Jesus – I Cor. 15:7
10. 11 disciples at the ascension – Acts 1:3-11

Jesus will also appear to the Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul will mention his opportunity to see Jesus in I Cor. 15:8.

Only Luke will record this priceless event. It really is a wonderful window into the hearts, minds, and emotions of the faithful followers of Jesus after the crucifixion. Up to this point Jesus has chosen to show Himself to a group of dedicated, serving woman, now He will walk, talk and eat with two more dedicated followers who are virtually unknown. Jesus loves and blesses all His followers not just those leaders in the spotlight! **God is not a respecter of persons!**

We will see these truths concerning the early followers of Jesus from this event:

1. Their sincere love and loyalty to Christ.
2. Their sincere love and loyalty among the brethren.
3. Their hope of God moving toward a kingdom.
4. Their lack of understanding of the plan of God.

I. Sad Journey

“And, behold, two of them went that same day (This refers to this being Resurrection Sunday. The events of the woman at the tomb, as recorded by Luke, had taken place prior.) to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs (about 7 miles). And they talked together of all these things which had happened.” Luke 24:13-14

“two of them” – These were not part of the 11 disciples but of that larger group of faithful followers. They could have been from Emmaus. It seems at this point, later in the afternoon three days since the crucifixion, the faithful ones of Jesus were beginning to disperse. Thomas, one of the 11 disciples, will be gone when Jesus appears to the rest later that evening. Why? They will tell us, all hope was lost!

Cleopas – (v. 18) Tradition says he was Joseph's, the earthly father of Jesus, brother. Or in other words Jesus' uncle. Most scholars also believe Cleopas was the father of James the less, one of the chosen disciples. His wife Mary stood at the cross and later went to the tomb (John 19:25; Luke 24:10). If this information is true, this faithful couple helped facilitate the ministry of Jesus and the ability for their son to travel with Him! This named man was most-probably the one who gave this account to Luke for his Gospel.

“Emmaus” – This is the only time Emmaus is mentioned in the Scripture. The truth is we just don’t know where it was located. We know it was about 7 miles from Jerusalem, a 2 ½-3-hour walk.

“all these things which had happened.” – “all these things” will become a theme of this event. (v. 14, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27, 35) We will see these two men were discouraged and questioning all they had seen and heard! “all these things”, seven details of the life, trials and crucifixion of Christ (v. 19-24), had shaken their faith to the core.

II. “Stranger” Joins

“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden (restrained) that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?” Luke 24:15-17

“they communed together and reasoned,” – “reasoned” – Gk debated, disputed back and forth, differences of opinions being discussed, cross-questioned Both men will be sad, but as they talked they had an active, and according to the Greek, an almost aggressive conversation. The Bible scholar Wuest called this interaction, “an animated, heated conversation.”

“Jesus himself drew near,” – This all-consuming conversation continued even when a stranger joined them on the way. Strangers joining together while traveling was a common practice. There was safety in numbers! But these two disciples did not change the subject when the new traveler joined them. This topic was all too important, and they were all too invested in it to cast aside their conversation aside out of politeness.

“their eyes were holden” – This simply means their eyes were restrained or kept from recognizing Jesus. In several appearances Jesus was not recognized at first. John 20:14; 21:4

“What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?” – Jesus took notice of their sadness! The topic of their conversation caused this emotion. Jesus asked, “What are you talking about that makes you so sad?!” Jesus takes their obvious sorrow and used it as the jumping-off point to teach them His wonderful truth!

III. “Stranger” Informed

- Facts of Jesus

“And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.” Luke 24:18-20

“Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things” – This is a statement of shock! Remember the Greek not only has action within its word meanings but also emotion! Most English translations

have included that the two men STOPPED and looked at Jesus. You can almost imagine they said something like, “What? Did you just crawl out from under a rock? Where have you been the last week?! You are probably the only visitor in Jerusalem that has not heard what has happened recently!” They were totally surprised at Jesus’ question? This strong response from the two followers of Jesus really highlights the fact that the details and knowledge of Jesus’ death was a well-known fact. The manner of His trials and Roman crucifixion was very public. Literally, every visitor for Passover in Jerusalem from across the then known world, had heard about “these things”! (Acts 26:26 – The attitude of Paul with King Agrippa.) This was just three days after the crucifixion.

Jesus will innocently ask them what they were talking about by saying simply, “What things?” In answering this questions Cheopas and his companion will reveal their faulty understanding of the ministry of Jesus and in turn He will open Truth to these two followers.

“Concerning Jesus of Nazareth,” – Jesus is the basis of the phrase, “these things”. This conversation was totally about Jesus of Nazareth. The two disciples will explain to the “stranger” all about Jesus, **facts that even casual visitors to Jerusalem seemed to know** – all but this man!!

1. Jesus was a Prophet from God. v. 19 “which was a prophet” – Gk “which **showed himself** a prophet”
2. Jesus’ words and works authenticated that He was from God.
3. It was the Religious Leaders who put Jesus to death! – The Religious Leaders worked very hard to hide this fact, but all of Jerusalem knew it just three days later!

Peter will use these same facts in his first message. This was the mindset of Jerusalem and the early followers of Jesus! Acts 2:22-23

- **Beliefs of Disciples**

“But we trusted (hoped) that it had been he which should have redeemed (saved from foreign rule and set up a kingdom) Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished (astounded), which were early at the sepulcher; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us (Gk – “our companions” – no names used) went to the sepulcher, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.” Luke 24:21-24

“But we trusted” – this was their hope pinned on Jesus!

4. Jesus was the One who would “redeem” Israel. At the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, it was taught and believed that the Messiah would politically deliver Israel. Christ’s followers held strongly to this thought. Their understanding of the Messiah and His work was flawed. Now they found themselves in total confusion and sorrow. Warren Weisbe said of this fact, “We get the impression that these men were discouraged and disappointed because God did not do what they wanted Hm to do.” p. 223
5. The tomb was empty! They understood the Jesus’ body was not in the tomb, but their belief did not extend to a resurrected Lord.

*Vs 21 “and beside all this, to day is the third day” – remember the third after death was significant to the Jews. That was the day the spirit left hovering the body of the dead. In their thinking, Jesus was really dead!

- *Vs. 23 Gk emotion - not putting much merit on the woman's report. This is consistent with the attitude of the culture to the witness of woman. The men confirmed the women's report, the tomb was empty. This verse also makes you wonder about their sadness! They should not have been sad! They had been told by the women that angels had told them Jesus was alive! It is certain these men had seen multiple miracles! They should have been rejoicing and anticipating seeing Jesus alive, yet they were faithless and unbelieving!
- *Vs. 24 "but him they saw not" – Gk emotion – profound sadness (v. 17) The fact the body was gone seemed to be a glimmer of hope to them, but when those men who went to the tomb, Peter and John, had not seen him, their hope was destroyed!

All the women along with Mary Magdalene saw Jesus resurrection morning. These two men must have left the group gathering before the woman could report having seen Jesus. Please remember the order of events is not set in the Gospel records in chronologically but we can be assured it is accurate.

IV. "Stranger" Teaches

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow (Gk - dull and slow) of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:25-27

These two men had a loyal and trusting heart toward Jesus. Their disappointment and deep confusion were very real. This is the kind heart Christ will reveal Himself too!

"O fools, and slow of heart to believe" – As always, Jesus will cut through the debate and confusion and answer with clarity the problem. What is the problem? **Unbelief in the Word of God!** Faithlessness when it comes to the truths of the Scriptures! And a lack of knowing, believing, and following the Bible! Wow, that is always the problem with the heart of man! The refusal to know and then believe the Words of God.

"O fools," – Gk – "O senseless men"; the emotion is with great sadness and disappointment Here we see the mind of Jesus on those **who desire to be a follower yet live not believing the Scripture!** He sadly sees them as fools and senseless!

"suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" – "Ought not" – Gk – divine necessity – "was it not necessary" According to the Old Testament, it was absolutely necessary for Jesus to suffer before the glory of a kingdom! Jesus would show how obvious it was and how the Religious Leaders and teachers through the centuries had missed it! The teachers believed and taught **the convenient and comfortable!** Simeon – Luke 2:34-35; Zechariah – Matt. 1:76-79

"he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." – "they could have discussed the subject for days and never arrived at a satisfactory answer. What they needed was a fresh understanding of the Word of God and Jesus gave that understanding to them." Weisbe p. 224 In verse 27, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets," is another way of saying the whole Old Testament. (Luke 24:44) Jesus will harmonize the conflict of suffering and glory as seen in the Old Testament. **(I Peter 1:10-12)** Most of the teachers had missed it, most had taken the easy, convenient, and popular interpretation of the Messiah. Who doesn't like world domination, conqueror, deliverer? But **sin was the issue** that needed to be dealt with first; sin was the world dominator, conqueror, and oppressor that needed to be destroyed! And a suffering Savior accomplished this need!

Possible themes: Old Testament sacrificial system; prophetic passages which spoke of the crucifixion; Abraham and Isaac, Moses and the brazen serpent

Possible Passages: Gen. 3:12-15; 22:18; 26:4; 49:10; Num. 21:9; Deut. 18:15; Ps. 16:9-10; 22; 69; 110; 132:11; Is. 7:14; 9:6; 40:10-11; 50:6; 53; Jer. 23:5; 31; 33:14-15; Ez. 34:23; 37:25; Zech. 9:13; Dan 9:24; Mic. 7:20; Mal. 3:1; 4:2

In these passages, he taught them “the things concerning himself.” The Old Testament reveals to us Jesus and why He came! These two had God’s plan explained from the Old Testament prophets. The true character of the Messiah.

“Our Lord’s exposition of these passages has not been preserved as a discourse, but probably his explanations formed the basis of apostolic interpretations of the Old Testament in the sermons in Acts and in the Epistles.” John Wycliffe p. 1069

Peter and Paul will preach to unbelievers or encourage the believers to search the Scriptures concerning Jesus’ need to suffer and then to enter into His glory! I Peter 1:11; Acts 17:3

V. “Stranger” Revealed

“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained (Gk – “urgently”) him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went into tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. Luke 24:28-31

“he made as though he would have gone further.” – Jesus acted as if He would continue down the road, but the disciples strongly asked him –almost begged Him, not taking No for an answer! To stay with them.

“Abide with us:” – This is a wonderful thought! Jesus needed an invitation, not a casual, half-hearted invite, but a strong, urgently desire for Him to stay with Him! He will only come by invitation! Rev. 3:20 Guard and pursue your Bible study and prayer time. Make your relationship with Christ a protected part of your life. Enjoy the Holy Spirit’s teaching but you must be eager and ready student!

“he took break, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.” – Jesus took over as the host of the meal. This was Jesus’ pattern as He traveled with his followers. God used this simple task to reveal the truth of Christ’s resurrection to the men.

“And their eyes were opened, and they knew him;” – God gave them the ability to recognize Jesus! It wasn’t a riddle their minds figured out, it was God allowing them to understand it was Jesus Himself teaching them!

“he vanished out of their sight.” – Jesus was not a ghost! Jesus’ body was glorified. Jesus had done things like this during His ministry. (walk on water; cover long distances quickly, disappear)

VI. “Stranger” Inspired

“And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” Luke 24:32

This should be the reaction Believers should have when the Bible is opened, and Jesus is taught! My Study Bible says in its notes, “The Scriptures find their most central application in pointing men to Jesus.” p. 1599 The subject of Christ within Scriptures caused this burning and love, interest and the desire for more! The Bible is not only full of moral goodness, interesting lessons, and compelling teaching; it all points to Christ. That “expounding” caused a wonderful, supernatural burning within! As believers we all should have experienced this burning and yearn for more of it!

VII. “Stranger” Declared

“And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together (this was late at night), and they that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed (Gk – “really”), and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.” Luke 24:33-35

“rose up the same hour,” – Gk – “the exact moment in time” There was no hesitation, planning, or special preparation made to return to Jerusalem. The fact that darkness was close was immaterial, they left immediately, they needed to tell the others, “Jesus is risen! He explained to us the Old Testament plan of the Messiah and then broke the bread as He always has done!”

“The Lord is risen indeed,” – The text reveals that these two men, though bursting with amazing news, had to listen first to everyone else’s stories!

Jesus’ appearance to Simon is not recorded in Scripture. All we know about this event is basically five words, **“and hath appeared to Simon.”** J Vernon McGee said of this meeting, “The restoration to fellowship was a personal and private transaction between Peter and his Lord.” p. 360 Peter’s testimony to the rest of the disciples confirmed what the ladies had already told them. Up to that point, the disciples had not believed in the resurrection. Paul will also record this meeting in I Cor. 15:5

Now Jesus has revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene at the tomb; Woman leaving the tomb; Two followers on the road to Emmaus; and Peter but we will find the room was still full of skeptics!

“And they told what things were done in the way,” – Sorrow and fear gave way to joy and rejoicing! This phrase records that the two men explained to the ten disciples Jesus’ teaching to them from the Old Testament. Or perhaps we should say “were explaining Jesus’ teaching”! Look at Luke 24:36! They were interrupted...by Jesus!

Remember: These key points from their Jewish Scriptures will become the foundation to the messages after Pentecost delivered to the masses by the Apostles! Acts 2:25-36; 3:18-26 Every time we find preaching done to a Jewish audience, the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Jesus will be the focus! Stephen Acts 7

Gospel of Mark's Mention of this Event I would be amiss not to mention what I read in almost every book I studied. Mark 16:9-20 is a section of the KJV that is not found in every English translation. My Study Bible says, "Ancient manuscripts contain two different endings for Mark. While some suggest that Mark did indeed intend for his gospel to end at verse 8, it ends on a note of fear and lacks a clear Resurrection account. In light of the uncertainty attached to verses 9-20, it may be advised to take care in basing doctrine upon them (especially vv. 16-18)." p. 1529-1530

"After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them." Mark 16:12-13

- "form" interesting term, Luke tells us their eyes were supernaturally blinded, here Mark seems to indicate Jesus was different to their eyes.
- "Neither believed they them." – could indicate a lack of perfect harmony and faith among the followers of Jesus. Some were yet unbelieving.

Believer's Application:

1. Jesus loves and blesses all His followers not just those leaders in the spotlight! Jesus loves you, desires to lead you, sees you, wants to reveal Himself to you! You are special to Christ! No person is too insignificant, or too small for Jesus to draw near to and reveal truth to. **Ps. 34:15-19; 145:18; Is. 57:15; James 4:8** Have your heart set; seek God humbly, and ready for truth! The ladies who saw Jesus on Resurrection Morning were simple women who had served faithfully helping to fulfill the day to day needs of Jesus and the disciples. Yet, Jesus chose them first to show Himself. Then on the road to Emmaus, Jesus chose these virtually unknown followers to teach the truth of the Old Testament and the suffering Messiah! "For there is no respect of persons with God." Rom. 2:11 This is a clear teaching of Scripture; this is the heart of God! He loves and reveals Himself to those who love Him! Acts 10:34-36; James 2:1-5 Relish in the fact, Jesus loves and blesses all His followers, not just those leaders in the spotlight!
2. We love to see the heart of Jesus as we study Him. In this event it is revealed His disappointment and sadness with those who call themselves followers but don't truly believe the Scripture! The followers of Jesus along with most of the Jewish nation did not believe what was written in the Scriptures! This caused the heart of Jesus grief. But let's realize we can be the same. We can live in faithless doubt and uncertainty our whole lives simply because we don't believe what the Bible says! How can this happen? How can we live in joy and faith? Know and believe the Bible!
 - Be careful to whom you listen! – The Religious Leaders had taught the people the convenient and comfortable. They were false teachers! 2 Tim. 4:3-5
 - Be careful what you believe! - We must be careful students of the Bible and beg God for truth and then believe it! As in this case, wrong doctrine ultimately brings confusion, fear, and sadness. Right doctrine brings confidence and joy! I John 4:1-6

- Be careful to live by faith on the truths of the Bible! – This type of living will produce joy, peace, and fruit. Without faith in the Scripture one will be anxious, fearful, and fruitless! Examples: God's care, love, presence, faithfulness, provision, power
- Be careful to obey the truths of the Bible! – Examples: Great Commission; pure living; love the brethren; forgiveness Titus 2:12-13
- Be careful to know the prophecies of the Bible! – This is what the Jewish nation did not understand, and it set much of their doctrine off on the wrong path! We are commanded to know prophecy! Rev. 1:5; 22:6-7; How are we to live while waiting for the second coming of Christ!? **2 Peter 3**