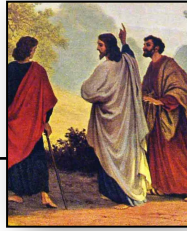


# Life Lessons from Christ's Resurrection?

(The Walk to Emmaus)



The last chapter of Luke, chapter 24, tells the story of several people who were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus. Every one of them was brokenhearted and discouraged over the death of Jesus. But after they saw Jesus, they were filled with joy and praise for God.

## Central Lesson:

The longer we walk with Jesus the more we understand the answers to life's puzzling questions

1. Most people fail to fully **RECOGNIZE** the true identity of Jesus. The more time we walk with Christ, the greater the insight (24:15-16, 30-31).

*"15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. 16 But God kept them from recognizing him."*

*"30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!"*

2. We can be **DISAPPOINTED** with God when life doesn't go the way we hope, but God has purposes far beyond our understanding (24:17-21). The followers of Christ hoped that Jesus, as the Messiah, would rescue Israel from the Roman empire.

*"21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago."*

*The Life Application Study Bible* - "The two followers returning to Emmaus at first missed the significance of history's greatest event because they were too focused on their disappointments and problems. In fact, they didn't recognize Jesus when he was walking beside them. To compound the problem, they were walking in the wrong direction – away from the fellowship of believers in Jerusalem. We are likely to miss Jesus and withdraw from the strength found in other believers when we become preoccupied with our dashed hopes in frustrated plans. Only when we are looking for Jesus in our midst will we experience the power and help he can bring." (24:13ff)

3. The testimony of **WOMEN** is evidence that the resurrection reports were not a first-century hoax (24:22-24).

*"22 Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. 23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!"*

4. The suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus were **FORETOLD** in OT prophecy (24:25-27).

*"27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."*

Josh McDowell writes, "The Old Testament contains sixty major messianic prophecies and approximately 270 ramifications that were fulfilled in one

person, Jesus Christ." (*More Than A Carpenter*, p.142). He adds "...all of the prophecies about the Messiah were made at least four hundred years before he was to appear." (p.143).

5. The Holy Spirit **WITNESSES** to our hearts that the resurrection of Jesus is true (24:28-32).

*"32 They said to each other, 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?'"*

6. The followers of Christ were **EYE-WITNESSES** to the resurrected Jesus (24:33-43).

*"36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said."*

7. The **WORK** of the Holy Spirit is essential to opening the minds of people to understanding the scriptures and for believers to be a witness for Christ (24:44-49).

*"45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." "47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' 48 You are witnesses of all these things." "49 And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."*

Alisa Childers points out that New Testament scholar and historian, Dr. Gary Habermas, collected over 1,400 of the most critical scholarly writings about the resurrection of Jesus between 1975 to 2003. He discovered that nearly all the scholars from the most conservative to the most liberal all agreed on several basic facts about the resurrection account of Jesus. Four of these are 1. **Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.** 2. **James the skeptic (Jesus' half-brother) was converted after an encounter he believed was the risen Jesus.** 3. **Paul the persecutor was suddenly converted after testifying to having met a resurrected Jesus.** 4. **Jesus' closest followers believed they saw him alive after he was dead and were willing to suffer and die without recanting that testimony.** The best explanation of the facts is that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. (Alisa Childers, podcast, "This Resurrection Sunday")

Chuck Colson, attorney and political advisor to President Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal, convicted and sent to prison for obstruction of justice, stated in a podcast, "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it wasn't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

## Central Lesson:

The longer we walk with Jesus the more we understand the answers to life's puzzling questions

- Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.