

Making Sense of Resurrection (Luke 24)

It all seemed crazy; totally absurd, like a fairy tale when they first heard it. Luke 24 takes us behind the scenes on the day Jesus rose to life. In documentary style, we're given the unfiltered response of his first followers trying to make sense of his resurrection. As they move from skepticism to astonishment, devastation to faith and panic to peace – we're invited to go there with them.

1. From skepticism to astonishment (Luke 24:1-12)

VV5-6 *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He's not here; but has risen. Remember how he told you..."* The women remember Jesus' words and run to tell the others.

V11 Their words *"seemed to them an idle tale"*

Peter saw the open tomb, empty grave and folded grave cloth and it moved him from skepticism to astonishment. He didn't have all the answers but he went home filled with wonder and amazement.

2. Devastation to faith (Luke 24:13-35)

They're confused; they don't *"get it."* Nothing makes sense to them. *"It wasn't supposed to end like this!"* Jesus lovingly rebukes them and graciously explains what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (things that *had* to happen). V27 Moses and Prophets = shorthand for the entire Old Testament. Jesus meets them in their devastation and addresses their misconceptions with Scripture.

1 Corinthians 15:13-22; 53-56

3. Panic to peace (Luke 24:36-49)

Peace = restoration; wholeness; rest – rescue. Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 1:19-22

V44 NIV *"Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this."*

V47 Because of Jesus' resurrection, *"repentance"* (total life-change) *"for the forgiveness of sins"* has been made possible *and available*.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Luke 24:1-49. What did the women discover when they reached the tomb? How did the apostles respond to their report?
2. Why were the two disciples on the road to Emmaus so devastated? What did Jesus talk about that made their hearts burn? V27
3. Jesus met the two in their grief and sorrow. He addressed their misconceptions. When and how did Jesus meet you in your own doubts and misconceptions?
4. What is the reaction of the eleven when Jesus appears before them in VV37-38? What evidence does Jesus give the disciples that it's truly him? Why is that so significant? Also see 1 John 1:1-3
5. What does *"they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling"* mean in V41? Have you ever felt this way about Jesus?
6. In V45 Jesus *"opened their minds"* - it was the moment things started to make sense. When did the story of Jesus start to "come together" or begin to "make sense" in your life?
7. Not that we'll ever wrap our minds around the resurrection, but why was the resurrection necessary? What does it make certain?
8. According to V47, what does the death and resurrection of Jesus make possible? What is the invitation and expectation of VV47-49?
9. Did the Spirit convict, encourage or remind you of something in particular through Luke 24?

Who can you share this story with? Pray for the opportunity, courage and humility to share the story of Jesus with someone and trust the Spirit to empower you to do it.