

## **Recap of 4/17/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Luke 24:13-35**

1. Luke cites the story of two disciples (not part of the Eleven Apostles) on their way to Emmaus (7 miles northwest of Jerusalem) who encounter the risen Christ on the way (though they are kept from recognizing Him). This is in keeping with Luke's emphasis upon eyewitnesses throughout his gospel. In Jewish law two witnesses were necessary to establish the truth of something. Luke is here establishing the truth of the resurrection.

### **2. Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

**-change to Sunday worship.** The early Disciples were Jewish (used to keeping the Sabbath) yet worshipped on Sunday to commemorate the resurrection.

**-the stone was rolled away.** "The tomb was sealed shut with a circular flat stone that rolled down a sloping groove till it was securely in front of the entrance to keep out intruders. To roll that stone back up again would require the strength of several men." (John Grassmick)

**-The empty tomb.** Skeptics say the disciples went to the wrong tomb, but they ignore the presence of the Roman soldiers, the angels, and the fact that the women watched Jesus' burial. Others claim that the body was stolen. If the body was stolen by His enemies, why didn't they produce the body when the disciples started to preach the resurrection of Christ? If stolen by His disciples, why were they willing to die as martyrs for that which they knew to be a lie. Still others say that Jesus didn't die (He supposedly revived in the Tomb-called the Swoon theory). However, the Roman soldiers verified His death, Joseph of Arimathea asks for the body to bury it, and the orderly arrangement of the grave clothes.

**-the significance of two Angels.** They verified the resurrection ("Why do you look for the living among the dead"). They reminded the women of what Jesus had said about His crucifixion and resurrection.

**-fearful to triumphant Disciples.** The changed lives of the apostles from a dispirited, fearful group to boldly proclaiming the resurrection 50 days later in Jerusalem. There was a marked change from fearful to triumphant.

**-the significance of the women as the first witnesses.** His first and second appearances were to the women. "...the witness of women was not acceptable in those days, nevertheless Luke records their testimony." (Liefeld, Expositors). If you wanted to perpetrate a hoax in that day you would not use women as the first witnesses.

**-the Disciples were not expecting the Resurrection.** The disciples were the first skeptics.

**-the grave clothes were left in orderly fashion.** According to John 20:30ff, the grave clothes were undisturbed but lay there in an orderly fashion. If grave robbers took the body, why leave the grave clothes? Why take the time to unwrap the body and reposition the grave clothes.

### **3. The importance of the resurrection:**

- "If the Resurrection is not historic fact, then the power of death remains unbroken, and with it the effect of sin; and the significance of Christ's Death remains uncertified, and accordingly believers are yet in their sins, precisely where they were before they heard of Jesus' name. (W. J. Sparrow-Simpson)

- "The Resurrection is proof and promise that death is not the end ... for anyone." (Richards)

-To the believer: "No story tells us more impressively the truth that a divine Savior walks beside us all the way of our earthly journey. It is pathetic that our eyes are so dimmed by unbelief that we fail to realize His presence. We walk and are sad while we might be rejoicing in His companionship." (Erdman)

-To the unbeliever: "Unless Jesus Christ has invaded your life, you are lost in your sins: without God, without life, without hope of heaven." (Erdman)