

## Disciples Believe the Resurrection

Is that Diamond?" Latrina asked Kyla.

"Where?" Kyla replied.

"The usher over there," Latrina said pointing to a section of the large church. Kyla and Latrina were at the joint community worship service in the megachurch.

"It kind of looks like her," Kyla said skeptically.

Kyla had lost track of Diamond. The two women had not been exceptionally close, but had been friends or friendly since high school. Diamond was a highly intelligent and good person. A potentially deadly combination, Kyla realized, when the person was solely depending on their own merits to attain heaven.

Kyla had spoken in depth about the plan of salvation, but Diamond didn't seem to nor want to get it. She would be just fine on her own. "Besides, how can you intelligently believe in a virgin birth and a Resurrection?"

After service, Diamond approached Kyla and Latrina.

"I thought that was you guys," Diamond said embracing each woman.

"Oh, my goodness, Diamond!" Kyla gushed.

After visiting in the church's coffee shop for more than 45 minutes, the women exchanged numbers.

"I've been praying that I would reconnect with you, Kyla," said Diamond. "You witnessed to me and prayed for me over the years. I wanted you to know that Christ opened my eyes to who He is. Thank you!"

**1.** *What are some reasons people experience blindness to who Jesus really is?*

**2.** *Why may it be easy for us as Christians to look but never see, listen but never hear, and be motivated but never respond?*

**3.** *What things hinder us from experiencing Jesus' presence along our journey?*

**LESSON FOCUS:** Jesus will open your eyes to who He is.

## Two Men Walk with Jesus—and Don't Know It

*Luke 24:13-24, KJV*

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 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?

19 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:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

*Luke 24:13-24, NIV*

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

<sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

<sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 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.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

<sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

After the events at Jesus' tomb, two of Jesus' followers traveled "to a village called Emmaus. . . talking with each other about everything that had happened" (vss. 13-14). Although they did not yet believe that Jesus had returned from the dead, they were trying their best to process the account the women had given them that morning. Something remarkable had clearly occurred—but back from the dead? They couldn't accept it. Yet.

As they walked and talked, trying to figure it all out, Jesus Himself appeared and walked along with them! And yet, the two men "were kept from recognizing him" (vs. 16). When Jesus asked them what they were discussing, for a minute, "They stood still, their faces downcast" (vs. 17). They were both distraught and a bit perturbed that this man couldn't understand their sadness. Then one of the men, Cleopas, finally asked Jesus, ironically, how He could not know the "things" (vss. 18) that had happened that week.

The men then told Jesus what had happened to Jesus: His powerful words and works, His condemnation by the religious leaders, and His crucifixion. They ended with an account of that morning's events: "some of our women" (vs. 22) went to Jesus' grave, found the tomb empty, and said angels spoke to them. The men even reported that "some of our companions" (vs. 24) had gone to the tomb, found it empty, and verified Jesus was not there. In the middle of their story, the men revealed both their hope and their lack of faith to Jesus: "we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" (vs. 21). Their hope was now walking right alongside them, but they did not comprehend it. Yet.

**4.** *What did the two men discuss, while on the road to Emmaus?*

**5.** *How did the men react when Jesus came alongside them and why?*

**6.** *What did the two men tell Jesus . . . about Jesus? What did they reveal about their own hearts?*

## Jesus Reveals Himself

*Luke 24:25-27, 30-31, KJV*

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

30 And it came to pass, as he

*Luke 24:25-27, 30-31, NIV*

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

<sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table

sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

After allowing the men to tell their story, Jesus now corrected them—and did not mince words while doing so: “Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” (vs. 26). As Jesus would make clear, the men had been given all the evidence they needed to believe. And yet, the visible events had shut their eyes to the truth. Like many in Jesus’ time, they had likely expected a conquering Redeemer who kicked out the Romans, not a suffering one.

This time, it was Jesus’ turn to explain the past few days’ events: “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (vs. 27).

Something had already taken place in the men’s hearts, for once they reached their destination, they begged Jesus to stay with them (vss. 28-29). He sat down with them, “took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them” (vs. 30). The men’s eyes “were opened and they recognized him” (vs. 31)—and then, almost immediately, He disappeared. The living Word in their hearts had opened the way for the Living Word to appear to them in the flesh.

**7.** *How did Jesus react to the men’s account of the events of the last few days?*

**8.** *How did Jesus correct the men’s view of those events, and why they had taken place?*

**9.** *What happened after Jesus and the men sat down to eat?*

## Open Our Eyes, Lord

In this lesson, we read the story of Jesus appearing to two men as they walked on the road to Emmaus. As they traveled, the men discussed recent events that had taken place in Jerusalem—Jesus' ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. Jesus came alongside them and asked them what they were discussing. They expressed surprise that Jesus didn't know what had happened, so they told Him the whole story.

At this time, the men didn't believe the truth of the Resurrection; their response revealed their hope along with their current lack of faith. Even though they had the facts straight, they did not yet see Jesus for who He really is. In spiritual matters, how much more important is it for us to look deeper than what's evident on the surface?

Jesus listened to their story and then rebuked them. He corrected their misguided expectation of a conquering hero and reminded them the Messiah would suffer. He went on to explain the fulfillment of prophecy concerning Himself, which was all the evidence they needed to believe Messiah had truly come. Something about His words resonated with the men, and they begged Jesus to stay with them for a meal. As Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, they recognized Him. Jesus opened their eyes to see who He is.

God's Word is living and active (Heb. 4:12) and opens our eyes to see who Jesus is—if we allow it.

**10.** *What incorrect perceptions do people often have about Jesus today?*

**11.** *Why is it possible for us to believe all that Jesus said and did and not (yet) have a redeeming faith?*

**12.** *How does what we say and do reveal what we believe in our hearts about who Jesus is?*

**13.** *Describe a time when Jesus opened your eyes to allow you to see more fully who He is.*

## Encountering Jesus

The story of two men on the road to Emmaus invites us to change our perception of who Jesus is to align more closely with Scripture and who He says He is. In this story, we observe the men “were kept from recognizing him” (vs. 16) and later “their eyes were opened” (vs. 31).

► *Here or on an index card, list one or more action steps you can take this week to respond to Jesus and who He is. Keep the list handy to remember and respond to Jesus’ offer to open our eyes to see Him.*

### KEY VERSE

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. —Luke 24:31, KJV

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. —Luke 24:31, NIV

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK’S LESSON

Week of April 10 through April 16

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon.** Luke 7:36-50—Hospitality and Redemption.
- Tues.** 1 Corinthians 15:27-31, 35-44—Raised with Christ in Glory.
- Wed.** 1 Corinthians 15:45-58—Death Is Swallowed Up in Victory.
- Thurs.** Psalm 5—God, Hear My Morning Prayer.
- Fri.** Lamentations 3:21-36—Great Is God’s Faithfulness.
- Sat.** Psalm 30—Joy Comes with the Morning.
- Sun.** John 21:1-14—Jesus Appears by the Sea of Galilee.