

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Luk 24:36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

Just imagine this – Jesus just turns up. This all must have spun the disciples out. Their mate Jesus, dead then alive and he does this turning up thing.

Then says "Peace to you"

Luk 24:37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

They thought Jesus was a ghost. In other words they hadn't got the whole resurrection thing. They didn't realise it was a real life physical like thing. (Actually there is still a lot of people who think it was a spiritual resurrection kind of thing and they explain away the physical side of it.) It's as if he got a glimpse of what future criticisms were going to be. Look how he deals with their scepticism.

Luk 24:38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Luk 24:39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Luk 24:40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Have a look. It's me look at the hands and feet. This action is linking the crucifix trio with the now. It was a reality moment

Yet

There is still unbelief.

Luk 24:41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

Luk 24:42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

Luk 24:43 and he took it and ate before them.

So he says watch this, I'll eat something, that pretty physical stuff.

What? The bible has been tested, examined, put through the ringer so many times yet what comes out is.

The bible is an accurate historical record of those events. There is no conclusive evidence to say it isn't. We can trust the record. If you don't believe me – do the work, investigate, do the academic rigour, don't just believe me or disagree with me, get to know your stuff. Certainly, don't make assumptions that you can't prove, don't take people's statements as fact unless they can qualify things.

Be convinced, but be convinced because you have asked the questions. Read stuff, google stuff but most of all – read the primary document – the bible.

Luk 24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

See, Jesus wants you to suss it out. Read his words, check the prophecies, check out what others say. Let Jesus open your mind. Then Jesus does this theological overview. Some commentators say this is the important stuff.

Luk 24:46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

Basic, simple gospel. Yep, total good news.

That's our story to tell. Jesus suffered, died and rose again.

But it goes further

Luk 24:47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

What we should be telling is: people need to repent (remember that means to turn away from something, in this instance turn

away from sin. And that people can be forgiven for those sins by Jesus. And notice where Jesus says it starts. Jerusalem, right where they were at. They were hanging out in Jerusalem so start there. (This is easy to translate to us today – where are you hanging out? Start there.)

I love this little verse that comes next.

Luk 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

The context of this is that they had seen it all happen. Jesus suffering, death, resurrection – they saw it. But we don't. Or don't we? We see Jesus work still. HE changes lives, creates miracles, answers prayer. And if we ain't seeing it, maybe it's because we ain't sharing it!!

But as usual, Jesus doesn't leave us alone.

Luk 24:49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

The promise of the Father – The Holy Spirit in their lives. We know what it means, I wonder if they did? I wonder if they had any idea of the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives?