**January 6, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“REMEMBERING HIS WORDS”**

**Luke 24:1-31**

***Luke 24:1 "Now upon the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain [others] with them."***

***Luke 24:2 "And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre."***

***Luke 24:3 "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."***

One of the very last things in the last chapter was that the women prepared these spices to bring to the tomb at the very first moment possible. On the first day of the week, Sunday, early in the morning, the women came to the tomb with their spices. Please note that these women had previously purchased the spices before the high sabbath (Thursday). Now they are bringing the prepared spices after resting on the weekly sabbath (Saturday).

***Mark 16:1 “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.”***

***Luke 23:56 “And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.”***

This would be early Sunday morning when these women come to the tomb. This was a very heavy stone that would have taken several men to move. It has been removed. The stone covering the opening to the tomb had been rolled away, and Jesus’s body was not there. This part of the account of the resurrection is in all four gospels. It is very important that He rose from the grave.

***Luke 24:4 "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:"***

***Luke 24:5 "And as they were afraid, and bowed down [their] faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?"***

As the women puzzled over what had happened, suddenly they realized they weren’t alone. Two others were there. They appeared to be men, but they were angels. It really doesn't matter how many angels were there. Different people see different things. These women were first disturbed that His body was not there, and then they beheld the two heavenly beings. By two a thing shall be established. Their clothes were dazzling, and the women bowed down in fear. They said, also, in another account, He is risen. Both messages mean the same. Jesus is alive. They were not sure at first what they saw because of the shiny white clothes. They did know they were heavenly beings and bowed their heads. This was wonderful news. Their Lord is alive. The angels asked perhaps the most glorious question ever: Why are you looking for the living among the dead?

***Luke 24:6 "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,"***

***Luke 24:7 "Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."***

***Luke 24:8 "And they remembered his words,"***

He had told the twelve apostles over and over that this was to happen to Him, but they (not wanting to believe it) had shut it out of their minds. Now these angels are reminding them that Jesus had told them this before, and now He is risen from the tomb. Jesus had truly died, but he had risen from the dead as he’d predicted when telling them he would be crucified and rise on the third day. The heavenly rebuke helped the women remember. Now that they have been reminded, they do remember what He had said, and are overjoyed.

***Luke 9:22 “Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.”***

***Luke 18:31-33***

***31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.***

***32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:***

***33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.***

***Luke 24:9 "And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest."***

***Luke 24:10 "It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary [the mother] of James, and other [women that were] with them, which told these things unto the apostles."***

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The women returned from the tomb and ran to find the Eleven and all the rest to tell them what had happened. You know that they just could not get to the eleven fast enough. “All the rest” here are Jesus' other disciples, not the masses. These weren’t nameless, fictional women but real people: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James. These women played a prominent role in Jesus’s ministry, supporting him from their own possessions, but they were not, and did not have the same calling as the apostles.

***Luke 8:1-3***

***1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,***

***2And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,***

***3And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.***

These women had been faithful to the end. They were the last at the cross, first at the tomb, and now the first to be told Jesus had risen. Possibly, because of their faithful presence and the apostle’s fearful absence, they were given the privilege of being the first to learn of the resurrection and instructed to communicate it to the apostles.

***Matthew 28:5-10***

 ***5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.***

***6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.***

***7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.***

***8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.***

***9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.***

***10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.***

***Luke 24:11 "And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."***

***Luke 24:12 "Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass."***

It is interesting how little some of these apostles believe. Some scholars today imagine that early Christians were gullible religionists, ready to believe anything. This is not the picture given here, but rather one of hardened and skeptical men, who with their own eyes or ears knew of Jesus’ decease and had no illusions about a fanciful tale that a dead man suddenly now lived. Initially, they disbelieved the women’s testimony. Perhaps, they didn't believe because the women brought the message. Many men have fell into this gender trap. By informing the apostles of Jesus’ resurrection, and informing them of his location, these women were not “teaching” nor “usurping” their authority. On the contrary, they were faithfully fulfilling their God ordained role of “helping” the apostles fulfill their assignment.

***Romans 16:1-3***

***1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:***

***2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.***

***Philippians 4:3 “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”***

Peter was prompted to run to the tomb to see for himself. When he saw nothing there except the linen cloths that had wrapped Jesus’s body, he went away, amazed and trying to make sense of what had happened. Peter has an awful lot to reflect on. He possibly thinks Jesus might not want him as an apostle anymore, because he denied Him. Peter must be thinking back to the things Jesus had said about His death and resurrection. This action by Peter seems to be referred to in verse 24. Peter does not yet necessarily believe in the Resurrection. He has merely gone from confirmed skepticism to bewilderment. Sometimes profound uncertainty precedes life-changing faith.

***Luke 24:13 "And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem [about] threescore furlongs."***

***Luke 24:14 "And they talked together of all these things which had happened."***

***Luke 24:15 "And it came to pass, that, while they communed [together] and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them."***

***Luke 24:16 "But their eyes were holden that they should not know him."***

***Luke 24:17 "And he said unto them, What manner of communications [are] these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?"***

Luke cuts to another resurrection account featuring two disciples. This "two" here is speaking of two of the apostles one of whom was named Cleopas. Jesus, Himself, had sent them out by twos on many occasions. They had been among the group the women had told about Jesus' resurrection, which they did not believe. These two were traveling to Emmaus. This town was a little over six miles from Jerusalem. "Emmaus" means bath or wells. It was probably a place where you could go, like to a hot spring for your health. As they were discussing what had happened that weekend, the risen Jesus began walking alongside them. However, they didn’t know who he was, for they were prevented from recognizing him. Their unbelief prevented them from recognizing him. So he asked them what they were discussing, and they stopped walking and looked discouraged. We see here a reality of the Scripture that says, "where two or three are gathered, there He is in the midst of thee". Jesus had shed His earthly body and was now walking in His heavenly body. In some ways, like the holes in His hands, it was the same; but there was enough difference in appearance, that they did not recognize Him. Neither will the fishermen immediately recognize Him. It is apparent that they do not quickly recognize His voice, as well. He asks why they are so sad. These two men are very much like many who proclaim to be Christians today. They are walking with Him, looking on His face, and still do not know who He is.

***Luke 24:18 "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?"***

***Luke 24:19 "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:"***

***Luke 24:20 "And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him."***

***Luke 24:21 "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."***

Cleopas was stunned: Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that happened there in these days? In other words, he said, “Where have you been, Mister? Don’t you know what’s occurred?” Apparently, there were few in Jerusalem who were not familiar with the details of Jesus’ death. Jesus was widely held to be a prophet, but these disciples had pinned their full hope on Him as the promised Redeemer of Israel. With Jesus now dead for three days, their confidence in Him was being seriously tried. Their answer gives them away. They did not understand the person of Jesus. They thought He was a man, a prophet like Isaiah. They did not realize He was the Son of God. Then they proceeded to explain who Jesus of Nazareth was to Jesus! Though he was a mighty prophet of God, the chief priests and leaders saw to it that he was sentenced to death. Yet it wasn’t just the miscarriage of justice that discouraged them; they were discouraged because their hopes had been dashed: We were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel. This implies they had expected him to redeem them from Roman rule and set them free. They had put all of their eggs in the Jesus basket. But their dreams had been destroyed; their hearts had been broken. The problem with these two, all along, was they had perceived Jesus wrongly from the beginning. They had thought like so many other that His reign would be political in nature. They had never seen Jesus as the Son of God who would redeem the whole world. Their vision of Jesus had been way too small. They thought only Israel would be blessed. They thought Jesus would take Jerusalem back from the Romans and rule in David's stead.

***Luke 24:22 "Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;"***

***Luke 24:23 "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."***

***Luke 24:24 "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."***

As if that weren’t enough, some women from their group had gone to the tomb that morning but didn’t find his body. Instead, angels testified that he was alive. Some of their friends went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. “We don’t know where he is,” was essentially the complaint these men made to the very man they were looking for! How wonderful that the one they couldn’t find was walking alongside them. “They were prevented from recognizing him” because of their disheartening circumstances. Now these women have seen a vision which indicates this is a spiritual matter and not a physical, and they can't believe it. They had known Jesus on the surface but had really never truly seen Him nor known Him. How much evidence do they want? The women believed, but these disciples did not believe even with all this evidence. Whatever the reason for the empty tomb, the net result remained: Him they saw not. Profound sadness gripped these pilgrims.

***Luke 24:25 "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:"***

***Luke 24:26 "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"***

Though they were discouraged, Jesus rebuked them: How foolish you are and how slow. That was not exactly a compliment! Rather than try to encourage them, he first wanted to take them to the truth. When we see the truth rightly, our emotions will follow. He told them they had not believed all that prophets have spoken. Jesus reprimands them here for their unbelief. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. He says why don't you read and understand your Bible? All of this is in your Bible. Their reading of Scripture had been selective. They needed to be taken back to see all that the prophets had said. The disciples had been ready to see in Jesus a glorious deliverer, but Jesus’ rebuke relates to their unwillingness to take seriously the many Old Testament texts that speak not only of the Messiah’s glory, but also of His suffering. It was necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory. Then He says this was right for Christ to do. Now He, Christ, is in His glory. “Ought” bespeaks a divine necessity. What the prophets had foretold must and did come to pass. Jesus is the Son of God, sitting now at the right hand of the Father, crowned with honor and glory. But he had to endure great suffering to get there. The disciples had missed what Scripture said about the Messiah. Likewise, many people today are excited about the promises and blessings of the Bible, but they avoid those passages that talk about trials and pain. However, you can’t have one without the other. We must be willing to accept the total package.

***Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."***

He gives them a Bible lesson in the Old Testament of all of the prophecies written about Him. They must have been like some ministering today, who are not very familiar with His Word. The entire Old Testament is indispensable for a grounded grasp of the identity and significance of Jesus. Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures. There was no written New Testament yet; Jesus was the living New Testament. He helped them to see the Messiah in the Old Testament. Similarly, whether we’re reading about Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, or Isaiah, we must always be looking for Jesus in the Old Testament Scriptures because they were written with him in mind. As the saying goes, Jesus is in the Old Testament concealed but in the New Testament revealed.

***Luke 24:28 "And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further."***

***Luke 24:29 "But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them."***

As they came near Emmaus, their destination, Jesus gave the impression that he was going to continue on his way. Apparently, Jesus would have kept on walking. But at the invitation and insistence of the disciples, who still do not recognize Him, He stops for the day with them. Night travel on the unlit byways of Palestine would not have been common. They went from Bible study to personal fellowship, from information to relationship. And as they sat down to eat, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Notice what happened. The guest became the host. They invited him in, and he fed them. It is almost unbelievable that they could have been with Him this long and not realized who this stranger is. Is Jesus a stranger to you? Have you taken time to really get to know Him? The day is far spent for all of us, as well. The thing that stands out in this, to me, is if the Holy Spirit does not reveal the person of Jesus to us, He is a stranger.

***Luke 24:30 "And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed [it], and brake, and gave to them."***

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

Jesus must be our companion, and we must commune with Him to truly have our eyes opened, that we might see Him for who He really is. They had been with Him, and yet did not know Him, until they took of His body. To truly know Jesus, we must partake of His body and His blood. He must live within us. At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who is the "they" in verse one?

2. What did they find in verse two?
3. When they entered the tomb, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. When they were much perplexed, who did they see?

5. What were they wearing?
6. What did the women do when they saw them?
7. What did the angels say to the women?
8. What did the angels remind them of?
9. Where did the women go when they left the tomb?

10. Did the men believe them?
11. What did Peter do?
12. Who was walking to Emmaus?
13. What were they talking about?
14. How far was Emmaus from Jerusalem?
15. Who came and walked with them?
16. Why did they not recognize Him?

17. What question did Jesus ask them?
18. What was one of their names?

19. Who did they say Jesus of Nazareth was?

20. What reprimand did Jesus say to them?

21. What did Jesus expound from the Scriptures to them?

22. When were their eyes opened?