

A WALK TO THE CROSS (and Beyond)

The Road To Emmaus

Luke 24:13-49

Easter 2017

I. THE THEORIES:

Arguments against the resurrection:

- **The Swoon Theory**...that Jesus *didn't really die*...He only *swooned* (passed out) and was *resuscitated* or *revived*. (He *walked seven miles* to Emmaus).
- **The Hallucination and Myth Theory**...that *all His post-resurrection appearances were only imaginary*...not real. (*Over 500 people* hallucinating *at one time* and hallucinating *the same thing*?...[I Corinthians 15:6](#)).
- **An Impersonation Theory**...that *someone was impersonating Jesus*...because in some cases people didn't recognize Him at first.
- **The Wrong Tomb Theory**...that *the disciples*...and *the women* who were with Him when He was crucified... *didn't know where the tomb was located*. (*Three of the four gospel* accounts point out that when Jesus was crucified, the women had made a careful note of the position of the tomb, in order that they might return later to anoint the body...([Matthew 27:61](#); [Mark 15:47](#); [Luke 23:55](#)).
- **Theft of the Body Theory**...that *the disciples stole the body* and *claimed that He rose from the dead*. (Why were the linen wrappings left in the tomb?) (Remember, the tomb was sealed and guarded...[Matthew 27:63-66](#)).
- **A Spiritual Resurrection Theory**...*not a real physical resurrection*...but that the body remained in the grave. ([I Corinthians 15](#) teaches that Christ *not only arose*...

but that He *arose bodily*...proclaiming *victory over death*).

- **Reliability of the Witnesses Theory**...the *disciples*...the *women* that followed Jesus...*the 500* He appeared before at one time...the *two* mentioned here in [Luke 24](#).
- **The Legend Theory**...that the resurrection was *made-up by the disciples and other followers*. **Chuck Colson** ...the *three most powerful men in government* couldn't keep a lie for more than *three days*...which led to the president's resignation. The disciples *bore witness until their death*.

If any of these theories were true...why were the enemies of Christ *never able to produce the body*? Why were the *Roman soldiers* that guarded the tomb *paid to not speak of the events*?

II. THE TRAVELING: ([vs. 13-16](#))

In these *two different appearances*...*to the two men* ([vs. 13-35](#)) and *to the gathered disciples* ([vs. 36-49](#))...Jesus taught from the Old Testament *the things that had been accomplished* among them. It wasn't until after Jesus had explained from the Old Testament that the **Messiah had to die** and be *raised three days later* that His followers began to *understand what had occurred* the past few days.

Two of them...One is identified in [verse 18](#) as **Cleopas**...his *companion isn't identified*.

To a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles (northwest) from **Jerusalem** ([vs. 13](#))...

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them ([vs. 15](#))...

But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him ([vs. 16](#))...

Prevented...Gk. *krateo*, means *to have power over...to not let go*. It describes a *world ruler* and his *powerful control*. It also describes *the power that sin has over a person*.

III. THE TALKING: (vs. 17-24)

When Jesus asked the *two men* to tell Him what they were discussing, the men related the *view about Jesus that most of the nation believed at the time...The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel (vs. 19-21)...that is, He was the Messiah and that He would establish His kingdom here on earth.*

But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” (vs. 22-24)...The *two men* even related that they had heard a report of the *resurrection* directly from some women. But what’s interesting...despite all this, their faces were *downcast* and they looked *sad* (vs. 17).

IV. THE TEACHING: (vs. 25-35)

Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? (vs. 26)...Jesus *gently rebuked* them for not *understanding* and *believing* what Scripture had *prophesied*. He implied that they should have *understood* from the Old Testament what had happened.

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures (vs. 27)...This was a common Jewish division of the Old Testament.

With Moses...the *Pentateuch*, the *Law*, the *first five books of the Bible*.

With all the prophets...would have included most of the *books of history*.

He explained (vs. 27)...means *to thoroughly open up and disentangle...to unravel or unscramble*. It’s like *interpreting* or *translating* from one language to another.

In all the Scriptures (vs. 27b)...passages like **Psalm 16**; **Psalm 22**; **Isaiah 53**.

It wasn’t until after Jesus had broken **bread** with them that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him (vs. 31a).

Opened (vs. 31, 45)...means to *thoroughly open what before was closed...as the first born opens the womb. To open the eyes to see what was not seen before. To open the mind and heart...allowing one to be able to receive and understand*. It describes that *once it was opened*, it would *never be closed again*.

A *transcendent moment...means to surpass or going beyond usual limits...above the range of normal* or merely *physical human experience...existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe*.

Their experience with Jesus caused them to hurry back the *seven miles to Jerusalem* and affirm to **the eleven and those who were with them...the resurrection**.

And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” (vs. 33-34)...

The *disciples* who were gathered together there...by this time *had received at least three reports* of the *resurrection*...

- The women...Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the *other women* (Luke 24:10).
- Peter and John...who had gone to the tomb.
- The two men on the road to Emmaus...Cleopas and his companion.

Yet they still *didn't comprehend* or *understand*!

V. THE TOUCH: (vs. 36-43)

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. And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet (vs. 39-40)...

Jesus stood in their presence so they could see Him and His wounds. This is the evidence that Jesus' appearance was *physical* and *not as a spirit*...

- The scars in His hands and feet (John 20:25-27).
“So the other disciples were saying to him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he (Thomas) said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see

My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing’.”

~John 20:25-27

- The tangible physical nature of Him being touched and handled (Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39; John 20:27).

“And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.”

~Matthew 28:9

“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.”

~Luke 24:39

“When He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing’.”

~John 20:27

- His ability to eat and drink (verses 41-43; Acts 10:41).

“God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”

~Acts 10:40-41

VI. THE TRANSITION: (vs. 44-49)

All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (vs. 44b)...Similar to verse 27...Jesus showed them from different parts of the Old Testament that *He is*

the Messiah and that He *had to suffer and rise from the dead*.

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (**vs. 45**)...Opened...the same as **verse 31**.

Opened (**vs. 31, 45**)...means to *thoroughly open what before was closed*...as the first born opens the womb. To *open the eyes to see what was not seen before*. To *open the mind and heart*...allowing one to be *able to receive and understand*. A *transcendent* moment.

And He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (**vs. 46-47**)...Because of His *death and resurrection*, the message of **repentance and forgiveness** could begin to **be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...beginning at Jerusalem**.

You are witnesses of these things (**vs. 48**)...This became the basis for **Luke** in his *second writing*...the **book of Acts**.

“To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now’.”

~Acts 1:3-5

I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high (vs. 49**)...the coming of the *Holy Spirit* on the *Day of Pentecost* (**Acts 1:8**).**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

~Acts 1:8

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- **There is multiple evidence that Jesus’ resurrection was a literal PHYSICAL RESURRECTION...not a myth or spiritual in nature.**
 - An empty tomb that had been sealed and guarded by Roman guards.
 - Multiple eye-witness testimonies that the tomb was empty (**Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, other women, Peter, and John**).
 - Jewish religious leadership...wanting to proclaim that the body had been stolen.
 - Proclaimed by an angel that He was alive...at the tomb.
 - Multiple appearances in many different locations to many different individuals (**Cleopas, Cleopas’ companion** on the road to **Emmaus, James, the disciples**).
 - Seen by over 500 brethren at one time.
 - Was physically touched and embraced on multiple occasions.
 - People testified that they had eaten and drank with Him.
- **The resurrection gives the believer HOPE of victory over death.** It gives them a *confident anticipation* of being with Jesus in heaven...*eternal life*.

“But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

~I Corinthians 15:54-57

- The resurrection allows the believer to **GRIEVE WITH HOPE** versus those who grieve, but **GRIEVE WITH FALSE HOPE**.

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.”

~I Thessalonians 4:13