

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #16: Jesus appears to two travelers on the road to Emmaus, Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32.

Review of the resurrection *events* up to this point (I have narrowed down the *approximate* hour of the events based on sunset of Saturday, April 4, 33 and the sunrise of Sunday, April 5, 33; MM is Mary Magdalene):

- Event #1: Saturday, 5:45 p.m., April 4, 33: Two Marys go to “look” at tomb, Matt. 28:1.
- Event #2: Sunday, 3:00 a.m., April 5, 33: Earthquake and angel from heaven, Matt. 28:2-4.
- Event #3: Sunday, 4:00 a.m.: MM visits the tomb before daybreak, Jn. 20:1.
- Event #4: Sunday, 4:15 a.m.: MM reports empty tomb to John & Peter, Jn. 20:2.
- Event #5: Sunday, 4:30 a.m.: Peter and John run to the tomb, Jn. 20:3-9.
- Event #6: Sunday, 4:40 a.m.: MM returns to tomb & sees 2 angels, Jn. 20:10-13.
- Event #7: Sunday, 4:50 a.m.: MM sees the Risen Lord, Jn. 20:14-17.
- Event #8: Sunday, 5:00 a.m.: MM tells disciples who do not believe her, Jn. 20:18; Mk. 16:9-11.
- Event #9: Sunday, 6:00 a.m.: MM & other women go to tomb of Jesus, Mk. 16:1-3; Lk. 24:1-2.
- Event #10: Sunday, 6:30 a.m.: Women enter tomb; 3 angels, Mt. 28:5-7; Mk 16:4-7; Lk. 24:3-8.
- Event #11: Sunday, 7:00 a.m.: Women run in fear; Jesus meets them, Mt. 28:8-10; Mk. 16:8.
- Event #12: Sunday, 8:00 a.m.: Women went to tell disciples; soldiers report, Mat 28:11-15.
- Event #13: Sunday, 8:10 a.m.: Once again, the disciples do not believe the women, Lk. 24:9-11
- Event #14: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.: However, Peter runs to the tomb a second time, Lk. 24:12.
- Event #15: Sunday, 8:45 a.m.: Private meeting between Jesus and Peter, 1 Cor. 15:5; Lk. 24:34.
- Event #16: Sunday, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Jesus joins travelers to Emmaus, Mk. 16:12; Lk. 24:13-32.

Although the location of Luke’s village named Emmaus (“place of warm springs”) is difficult to identify, the Bible tells us that it was about seven miles from Jerusalem (likely southwest). One of the travelers is named, Clopas; the other is unnamed. I have allotted four hours for this trip which included a lively conversation between Jesus and the two travelers followed by a Bible class by Jesus Christ on the Messiah throughout the Old Testament: “And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures” (Luke 24:27). There are two passages on this resurrection appearance:

Mark 16:12 And after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking along on their way to the country.

Luke 24:13-32 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were conversing

with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ And it came about that while they were conversing and discussing, Jesus Himself approached, and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ And one of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. ²⁴ "And 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." ²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He would go farther. ²⁹ And they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ And it came about that when He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

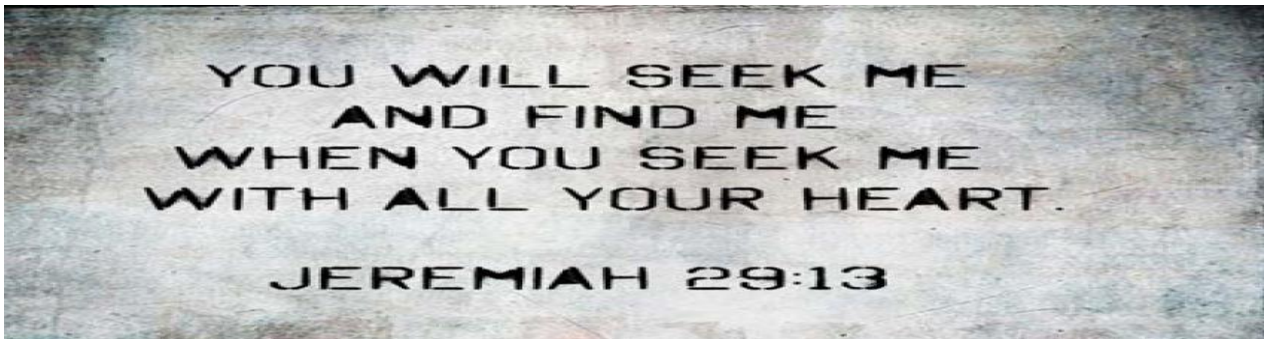
A few doctrinal principles:

1. The reasons for the selection of the first witnesses of the Resurrection are discernible. Mary Magdalene was chosen because she loved much, and sorrowed much. Peter was chosen because of his biblical repentance (change of *mind*). These two travelers were chosen because they were positive to Truth: the word translated in verse 15 above, "discussing," is *sudzeteo* (συζητέω) which means to seek or examine together.
2. We see in these three incidents different mental and emotional states of those involved, but they all have one thing in common: need for Jesus Christ—a need that could not be fulfilled by anything or anyone else. Jesus came to fulfill the emotional brokenness of Mary (as evidence by her tears); He came to heal the spiritually broken Peter who had so wished he had not denied the Lord; and now in this event He comes to the two travelers to Emmaus who, although they were confused, were still *actively* seeking Truth about Jesus Christ.
3. Although some Christians think that Christianity is only about the Person of Jesus Christ and *not* so much about propositional truth (with such things as

logic—argh!!), the narrative indicates otherwise. If it was *only* about seeing Jesus, Jesus would not have kept them from recognizing Him for *hours*. Note Christ's focus on logic and propositional truth before He even revealed Himself to them.

4. These men had questions and they needed rational answers. Jesus obliges them by spending hours in clearing the minds of these two gropers after truth, as to satisfy the yearnings of their *minds*. They needed logical biblical answers. Again, Jesus gives them these answers all the while not disclosing Himself.
5. These men were somewhat *insignificant*. They were not part of the apostles, for the apostles were in Jerusalem (Luke 24:33). They were so insignificant that Luke does not seem to know the name of one of them, and the other whom he does not name never appears again. Yet to these two insignificant people, Jesus Christ, with the experience of death and resurrection fresh upon Him, thought it worth His while to come, to enlighten their understandings, and clear up their thoughts—*for several hours!*
6. Jesus Christ joyfully accompanies anyone who is a humble seeker after light! This is one of the greatest promises in the Word of God. No matter where you are or what you are going through, if you truly seek Truth, He will always come and fulfill those needs. Since He is now at the right hand of the Father, He does not visit us in Person. However, as I look over my life over the past thirty years in doctrine, it is undeniable that He has always brought great teachers into my life to answer my questions and to move me further along in understanding Truth.

One of the greatest blessings of my life is to have so many believers at FBC who are also truly interested in growing in Truth—rather than just getting through the temporal details of life. God has been good to us to provide us with so much truth so we can grow in our love for the Lord with our minds. Growing in truth is always such a wonderful blessing, but to be able to grow with others just makes it that much sweeter. Thanks FBC believers for being seekers of Truth, it is so wonderful to see how God answers these needs.



Pastor Don