

Synchronizing the Resurrection Narratives, Event #17: The two travelers of Emmaus told their story to other disciples, but they were not believed, Mark 16:13; Luke 24:33-35.

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.
- Event #17: Sunday, 5:00 p.m. The 2 travelers tell the 11 Disciples, Mk. 16:13; Lk. 24:33-35.

Mark 16:13 And they went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

Luke 24:33 And they arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has really risen, and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ And they *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

As we noted in event #16, Jesus Christ joins two travelers to Emmaus to answer their doctrinal questions/doubts regarding the Messiah, His death and Resurrection. The discourse reveals the collapse of their Messianic hopes and how Jesus opened their eyes to the

Resurrection through the Scriptures—coupled with the *historical* events that they were recounting (Luke 24:21-24). During this journey, Christ supernaturally kept their eyes from recognizing Him (Luke 24:16). The reason Jesus was not recognized was a subjective one; this event affords no support to the theory of a change in our Lord's resurrection body. As they approach Emmaus, Jesus "acted as though He would go farther" (Luke 24:28), but they urged Him to ABIDE with them. Even though they did not know it was Jesus at this time, they wanted the company of this man who opened up the Scriptures to them and answered their theological questions. If they had not "urged Him" to ABIDE with them, He would have left them and they would have never had the blessings of this supper which included the revelation that this "Stranger" was none other than Jesus Christ. There are powerful principles in this narrative regarding fellowship with the Lord. The single greatest blessing and the blessing that makes all other blessings so fantastic is walking with the Lord. No matter where we are in the plan of God, the key is fellowship with Christ. It is fellowship with Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that makes doctrine and all of life so blessed. Believers' paths would be less lonely, and their thoughts less sad and stressful, if they realized more fully and constantly His promise, "I am with you always." Like the two travelers, there must be a desire for Him to abide with us. If we do not make fellowship with Him a priority, we will not only become distracted with the kosmos and the details of life, our spiritual lives will dry up—"apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-5). It was their insistence that He abide with them that led to His revelation as the three dined together. Note the progression: He answered their doctrinal questions, they desired His fellowship, and then He revealed Himself to them in fellowship. To put in another way, true love for God's Word reflects one's attitude to Jesus Christ: *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him."*²⁴ *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me,"* John 14:23-24. Again, true love and enthusiasm for Jesus Christ always translates to the same mindset to Bible doctrine.

In event #17 these two men returned to Jerusalem to tell others and the Eleven of having walked with Jesus. However, they were not believed. In fact, as they walked in on a discussion between the Eleven, Peter was relating how he too had seen the Lord, but he was not believed either. It is not hard to understand why the two travelers were not believed. What a *strange* story: Jesus, whom they did not even recognize as such, meets them on the road to Emmaus to answer their questions for hours after which they urged Him to join them for a meal and after which they recognized it was Jesus, and then He disappeared before their eyes. Not the kind of story someone is going to invent to get others to believe.

The idea that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was expected or grew up in some field of hallucinations is preposterous. Just the reverse is true: there was a total collapse of the disciples' Messianic hopes. Such a state of mind is not the soil in which hallucinations spring up. There was no predisposition to believing in the resurrection. *Nothing but the actual appearance of the risen Lord could have changed these sad, skeptical "unbelievers" to lifelong confessors.*

Blessed,

Pastor Don