

Last Days of Jesus

Sunday 2 | Day of Confirmation | John 20:19 – 21 & Luke 24:13 – 35

Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

With the doors locked (20:19). the doors of the house where they were, which it is plain was in Jerusalem, (Luke 24:33) but whether it was the house where Christ and his disciples ate the Passover together, or whether it was John's home or house, to which he took the mother of Christ, since he and Peter, and the rest, seem to be afterwards together in one place, is not certain: however, the doors were shut; which is not merely expressive of the time of night, when this was usually done; but signifies that they were really locked and bolted, and barred.

From Friday to Sunday, Jesus Christ had been crucified, buried in a tomb, and had risen from the dead. This first resurrection Sunday marked the beginning of a 40 day period when Jesus spent time being seen by others to confirm that he had truly risen from the dead. He could have risen from the dead and immediately ascended to heaven, but he didn't. He knew something about those first disciples, they needed confirmation that his body was resurrected from the dead. Each disciple was different and became aware that Jesus was no longer dead in very different ways. As you look at Scripture, you will consider how each disciple from Mary Magdalene, to the 10 disciples, to the disciples on the Emmaus road came to encounter the risen Jesus. As you begin to uncover truths about those disciples, you will find that you are not all that different from them as you encounter Jesus in your life.

Read John 20:19 – 21

1. Where are the disciples. Where are they supposed to go? (See Matthew 26:32 and 28:7) Why were they still hiding in a house in Jerusalem?
2. In spite of the 10 disciples being told by Mary Magdalene that she had seen the risen Jesus (John 20:18), why didn't the disciples believe her?
3. What confirmed to the 10 disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead?
4. Of all the things Jesus must have said, why does John record "peace be with you" two times in this encounter with the disciples?
5. Where could you use Jesus' "peace" right now: In some relationship? In some inner fear?

Read Matthew 24:13 – 35

6. What are the two disciples of Jesus talking about as they walk (v. 19 – 24)? What tone do you hear in their voices? What hopes are dashed? What plans might they be making? What does the "stranger" ask and how do they react to him?



STUDY NOTES

Two of Them (24:13). These were not two of the remaining eleven apostles, but two followers of Jesus who lived in nearby Jerusalem. They were probably returning home after the Passover feast.

Emmaus (24:13). The site of this village is uncertain.

Cleopas (24:18). While this man was probably a figure Luke's readers would know, who he is remains uncertain today. It is assumed that Mary the wife of Cleopas is connected to this Cleopas.

A Prophet (24:19). These men had respect for Jesus as a man of God, but after the crucifixion they seemed reluctant to call him Messiah – until they realized it was the risen Jesus.

Moses and All the Prophets (24:27). This was a way of referring to all the Old Testament Scriptures (16:31). Jesus claims that all the Old Testament teachings about the Servant of the Lord, the Son of Man, the Son of David and the Messiah apply to him. It is these teachings taken collectively that explain who he is and what he came to do.

He disappeared (24:31). The Gospels' accounts of the appearances of the resurrected Jesus indicate that while he was in his earthly form (v. 39, 42 – 43; Matthew 28:9), he was not restricted by that body (John 20:19).

7. In your own words, retell the story that the two men told Jesus concerning what had happened in Jerusalem “in these days.”
8. From an overview of Old Testament prophecy, below are some possible prophecies “the stranger” may have discussed with them in verses 25 – 27. How does Jesus’ own view of the Old Testament Scriptures confirm the inspiration of the Bible?
 - Immanuel’s virgin birth – Isaiah 7:14 / Matthew 1:23
 - Messiah will come from Bethlehem – Micah 5:2 / John 7:42
 - Messenger (John the Baptist) who will prepare the way for the Messiah – Malachi 3:1 / Matthew 11:10
 - The Messiah’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem – Zechariah 9:9 / Matthew 21:4 – 5
 - Christ will be abandoned by his disciples – Zechariah 13:7 / Mark 14:27, 49 – 50
 - The Lord lays upon Christ “the iniquity of us all” – Isaiah 53:4 – 1 – 12 / 1 Peter 2:21 – 25
 - Israel “will look on the one they have pierced” (Jesus’ side pierced by a soldier’s spear) – Zechariah 12:10 / John 19:37
 - Christ will usher in the “new covenant” – Jeremiah 31:31 – 34 / Hebrews 8:7 – 13
 - The outpouring of God’s Spirit at the Day of Pentecost – Joel 2:28 – 32 / Acts 2: 16 – 21
 - Gentiles will be included in the people of God – Joel 2:28 – 32 / Romans 9:25
 - The Messiah’s kingdom will last forever – Daniel 7:14, 27 / Revelation 11:15
9. Why did Jesus do a roundabout Bible study rather than just reveal his identity immediately and directly?
10. What has happened to the other disciples that caused them to change their minds from verse 11?
11. Why a special appearance to Peter?
12. Where is your “Road to Emmaus” – the place where Jesus surprised you recently? What happened? Did you urge him to stay? (v. 29) Why or why not?
13. Some of the greatest proofs of Jesus’ resurrection are (1) the difficulty Jesus had in convincing his followers he was again alive; and (2) how the news changed them from fearful fugitives to bold, aggressive witnesses. How has your life been changed by belief in the resurrection?