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I. 24:1-12 The Empty Tomb

A. 24:6-8 The angels remind them what Jesus had been saying all along.

i. Luke records a few examples:

Luke 9:22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

Luke 9:44-45 "Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

Luke 18:30-34 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

B. One line of evidence for the Resurrection is found in the fact that none of His followers expected it to happen. It was not some kind of wish-fulfillment.

i. The women expected to find a dead body.

ii. The disciples didn't believe the women when they told them what they found.

II. 24:13-35 Jesus Appears to Two

A. 24:13-27 On the Road to Emmaus

i. 24:14 We can only imagine their emotion, their confusion.

ii. 24:17-19 I love the way Jesus just plays along. He lets them tell the whole story.

iii. 24:25 Too often Jesus gets my attention with the same words, "O foolish one!" This word literally means, "without mind, without sense"

- a) Five of the six times this word is used in the NT it is used of believers.
 - △ In the OT the word “fool” usually describes someone with a moral deficiency.
 - △ In the NT this word is used more for someone who is imperceptive.
- b) Jesus points out their root problem: They are **slow of heart to believe**.
- c) Unbelief is more an issue **of the heart** than **of the head**. Once our hearts are open, our heads follow along more easily.

iv. 24:27 This was certainly the best Bible study ever – and all of us missed it.

B. 24:28-31 Jesus Reveals Himself

Some suggest that when Jesus gave them the bread, they saw the wounds on His hands – and then recognized Him. Maybe so.

C. 24:32-35 Back to Jerusalem

III. 24:36-43 Jesus Appears to the Group

24:39-40 This event puts meaning into John's words as he begins his first letter.

1 John 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life...*

IV. 24:44-49 One Last Teaching

4:49 ***Behold I send the Promise of My Father*** Jesus has a part in sending us the Holy Spirit. And yet that's not the whole story:

John 14:16-17 (NKJV) And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Oh how we need to take full advantage of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7 (NKJV) Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

V. 24:50-53 Jesus Returns to Heaven

May the Lord encourage our hearts with this purifying hope.

Luke 24:52-53 *And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.*

Conclusions:

Three Important Points We Need to Believe:

1. Jesus is the Savior or the Messiah spoken of by the OT prophets (**24:27, 44**). We like those first disciples can be slow of heart to believe, to understand who Jesus is and that His coming was not a random event.
2. Jesus really died as an offering for our sins. Therefore, “repentance and remission of sins” should be preached as part of the gospel message (**24:47**).
3. Jesus truly rose from the dead. That is what this Resurrection Sunday is all about.
 - a. The resurrection changed the lives of these early followers.
 - b. It brought the church into existence as numerous people began to believe it, both inside and outside of Judaism.
 - c. It is what separates Christianity from all other world religions.

Three Facts Jesus Wants Us to Know:

1. Repentance and remission of sins are in the name of Jesus. Peter said it like this in Acts (Luke’s Sequel to the Gospel):

Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

2. This Gospel needs to be preached to all nations. Salvation in Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It is not just for us, or for the church or for our culture. Every atheist and every idol worshiper needs to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. The Holy Spirit's empowering is vital to our begin able to effectively share this message. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. In Acts 2 they receive that power. That power is ours for the asking, but we do need to ask.

Three Ways We Should Personally Respond:

1. Personally put our faith and trust in Jesus. It does no good to believe certain facts without personally trusting Christ with our eternity.
2. Personally get serious about repentance and remission of sins. Jesus wants a pure church.
3. Personally assess our own part in making this message known.
 - A. We are saved from something – sin and death – but we are also saved to something – a life of service and devotion to Christ.
 - B. We each have a role to play in the missionary enterprise of the church.
 - C. Our gifts and resources need to be focused on getting the Gospel to all nations – beginning right here in our own Jerusalem.