



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Witnesses of the Resurrection

Focus Verses: Luke 24:46-48 -⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.

Lesson Text: Luke 24:1-9, 13-16, 25-38, 44-48

Truth About God: The resurrection of Jesus Christ inspires believers to share the good news of the gospel.

Truth For My Life: We must be witnesses of the Resurrection to those who have not yet heard.

The women were the first witnesses to the resurrection. The group of women just stood there shocked. The tomb was empty. Suddenly two men appeared in shining, white apparel. Fear gripped the women's hearts, and they immediately dropped to their knees with their faces toward the ground. The men asked, "*Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen*" (Luke 24:5-6). As hope rose in their hearts, they ran to excitedly tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. Peter and John bolted from the group and ran to find everything just as the women had reported.

The two men from Emmaus witnessed the resurrection. When Jesus asked why they were so downcast, they were astonished that someone in the vicinity had not heard about Jesus and His crucifixion. He went with them to eat in the village, and as He broke bread, their eyes were opened. What a surprise to realize this was the resurrected Jesus. Within seconds, He vanished. When they realized Jesus had been with them, they left to tell the disciples about the resurrection. Jesus appeared in their presence. He spoke to them saying, "**Peace be unto you,**" Still, when He appeared, they were terrified. They thought He was a ghost. Jesus assured them He was not a ghost because He had flesh and bones. He then allowed them to see His hands and His feet, but they were still having trouble realizing the impact of that signal moment. Then Jesus asked for something to eat as He ate with them and expounded on the Scriptures.

Jesus promised He would be with us always and never leave us (Hebrews 13:5). Yet we trudge along, groaning about how hard it is to get through life alone. Just as Jesus promised He would rise on the third day, He also promised new life through the Holy Ghost (John 14:16-17). Jesus promised power through His name when we receive the Holy Ghost (Luke 24:49). **As Christians, we live far below our privilege when we forget God's promises.** The promises of God are sure (2 Corinthians 1:20). We can count on them. The fact that Jesus is alive is central to God's plan of salvation.

We must not allow disappointment to blind us from recognizing Jesus with us. It would be easy to allow disappointment and dismay to become our focus when we are going through difficulties. Many followers of Jesus only focused on Jesus' crucifixion. We must be careful to turn our attention to the one who will never leave us or forsake us, especially during harsh trials that try to crush our faith. We must look beyond our present circumstances and hold onto the promise that Jesus is right here with us. **We must allow His presence to be our focus.**

The disciples fulfilled Jesus' commandments, on the Day of Pentecost, they instructed those who gathered on how they could experience the promise Jesus spoke of through the gospel. "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call*" (Acts 2:38-39).

The witness of the resurrection is all around us today. Romans 6:4 tells us, "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" Death is dying out to sin. Burial is when we are baptized in Jesus' name. His resurrection is through the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Those who meet the Creator and experience the life-changing gospel will be the most effective in representing Him in the world. To best share the gospel with others, we must first experience it for ourselves. If we have experienced the saving power of Jesus Christ, we can share it with others. We don't have to be theologians or scholars to share our testimony with others. Experiencing the death, burial, and Resurrection through the gospel of Jesus Christ is enough to begin sharing our story. Proclaim it. We have witnessed firsthand what His gospel can do for us. We can fulfill His mission because we are true witnesses of the Resurrection.