

Living a Christ-Centered Life

LESSON 24: A Christ-Centered Life is Ready Believe and Act!

In Ch. 24 we read how the disciples dealt with understanding the resurrection of Jesus. It is very clear that they were emotionally overwhelmed and it affected their clear thinking. As Luke relates it, even though the disciples struggled, they were not necessarily unbelieving (like those who rejected Jesus); they simply did not understand. Grief can do that.

The disciples were going to have to serve without all the answers and even with doubts. The resurrection was supposed to help in this. What was needed to push them over the top in their faith? The Holy Spirit. That is what part two (Acts) is all about.

Jesus' last lessons were to fortify their faith in him and instruct them about the next phase of their ministry - preaching Jesus and salvation to the world.

Question to consider:

1. Has doubt and ignorance about Jesus ever kept you from fully accepting or acting in faith? How?
2. Is it possible to struggle and still be an effective servant of Christ? Why?

Word Study Challenge:

V. 7, 26, 44 "Must" and "have to"

V. 38 "Doubts"

V.4 & 12 "Wondered"

V. 41 "Joy and amazement"

Read 24:1-12

- The disciples "wondered" about what they were seeing with their own eyes. They thought the report about Jesus' resurrection was nonsense (lit. "a tale"). Do you think this struggle was necessary to build faith; or is this an unfortunate lack of faith?

Read 24:13-35

- Jesus called the two disciples "slow of heart to believe." What does this mean? Is this the same as being "hard of heart"?
- What is the remedy for being slow of heart?

Read 24:36-53

- What is the value of an "opened mind" and what will it do for a struggling disciple?
- What is the mission and message of witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection? Does this apply to us?