

THEME: LIVING THE RESURRECTION LIFE

INTRODUCTION: On Sunday Dave preached about the resurrection being the driving force behind the launch of the early church. He looked at the proof, the permanence and the purpose of the resurrection. In this study we look at 2 people whose lives were profoundly changed by the resurrection. Perhaps ours can be as well?

Luke 24:13-32 On the road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him.

¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

¹⁹ 'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

LAUNCH

Where is your favourite place to walk, think or be alone?

When was the last time you were genuinely excited by something?

DISCOVERY

What evidence is there from this passage that Jesus was permanently resurrected and not an apparition or a ghost?

'The resurrection of the dead is a key part of what we believe'.

Do you agree with this and if so what impact should it have on our lives?

Why was the crucifixion so devastating for the followers of Jesus?

Has anything shaken your world recently and how did it affect your faith in God?

What kept Cleopas and his friend (or wife) from recognising Jesus?

What sort of things might keep you from seeing Jesus at the present time?

Spend some time praying about these things as a group

What was the difference in mood and attitude of these two Christ followers before and after their meeting with Jesus?

Does meeting with Christ through quiet times, reading your bible, prayer and listening to God affect your overall mood? Should it do so?

APPLICATION

Pray for each member of the group that rather than walking alone in disappointment and despair we would learn how to walk in step with Jesus and receive his resurrection encouragement, faith and hope.