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Part Three: *confused to confident!* March 17, 2024

Mary Magdalene visited the tomb while it was still dark and found it empty (John 20:1). This means Jesus rose from the dead sometime before dawn on Sunday morning. An angel had rolled the stone from the mouth of the tomb to let witnesses see Jesus had risen from the dead (Matt. 28:2–4). Later that morning, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), and then to other women who had faithfully followed Him (Luke 24:10). Jesus appeared to Peter sometime late morning/early afternoon (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5).

What did Jesus do on Sunday afternoon?

- Jesus joined two men on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-18

The two men were not offended that a stranger had joined them on their journey, nor were they angry that he had joined their conversation. But they were shocked that the stranger was ignorant of what had happened in Jerusalem in the last few days.

- Jesus asked the men what happened in Jerusalem. Vs. 19-24

The events of the weekend caused the men to question Jesus' identity. They knew Jesus was a prophet who performed powerful miracles and a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all people. But they were unsure He was the Messiah—the One who would rescue Israel. The men needed someone to teach them about the Messiah. So...

- Jesus used the Old Testament to teach the men about Himself. Vs. 25-27

1st - Jesus scolded the men for not understanding and believing what the Old Testament prophets had written about the Messiah.

2nd - Jesus asked the men, *“Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”*

3rd - Jesus taught the men that the Messiah had to suffer on the cross before He could wear a crown (Isaiah 53).

Jesus opened the men's minds to the Messiah's mission. The men did not know who the stranger was, but they knew there was something special about him. So, they begged the stranger to come to their home. So...

- Jesus joined the men for dinner. Vs. 28-31

The men hastily prepared a meal, placed it on the table, and then asked their afternoon tutor to say the blessing. Jesus held up the bread and blessed it. Then, He broke the bread and gave some to the men. Suddenly, the men recognized the risen Lord!

What happened when the two men saw the risen Lord?

- They traded their confusion for confidence! Vs. 32-34

The men's view of Jesus changed when they saw the risen Lord, and that gave them the confidence to live for Him. The confused men became confident followers of Christ when they recognized Jesus as the Savior, Messiah, and Lord (Luke 2:11)!

What do you need to do to be a confident follower of Christ?

1. You need to study the entire Bible to learn about Jesus.

The Bible is structured as promise (Old Testament) and fulfillment (New Testament) to tell God's story of creation, the fall, redemption, and the new creation. To understand the Bible, you must read it with an eye toward its central and unifying character, Jesus Christ - the Son of God and Israel's promised Messiah.

2. You must see the risen Lord.

As I have said throughout this series, a dead Savior, Messiah, and Lord is useless. You will never confidently follow Christ until you see Him alive and coming again to make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

3. You must see how Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection freed you from the power of sin.

Read Romans Chapters Five and Six, and you will see that Christians have been set free from the power of sin. Those who believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ have been forgiven of all their sins and empowered to live a new life!