

**Introduction:**

- I want to talk about the importance of faith this evening. We will be looking at Luke 24 examining all the unbelief found in that chapter and what Jesus did to reposition His followers in faith. It may also be worthy to note that all of these things happened in a day. Jesus was after establishing community among the believers and faith was essential!
- One common theme in all of the unbelief references in chapter 24, is that, when Jesus' followers forget what He has said, or they forget what they have read (in the Word) Doubt and unbelief definitely rise up where the Word is forgotten.
- I am encouraged though, at Jesus tenderness towards us in helping to us into a place of faith. Hang in there, cause Sunday is coming!
- "John Paton, a missionary to a remote group of natives, was having a difficult time translating certain passages of the Bible into their language. It seemed that this particular group had no word for "believe." Then one day, one of the natives flopped into a chair, stretched out and propped his legs up on another chair. He then expressed how good it felt to "lean his whole weight on" those chairs. The missionary quickly wrote the expression down. APPLICATION: When we believe in the promises of God, we "lean our whole weight on" Jesus. To believe in the Gospel message is to transfer the full weight of our confidence and concerns to the finished work of Christ." Illustration Exchange.
- Let's look at how the first followers of Christ were in unbelief and see how they got there. We are going to look at four things that keep us in doubt and unbelief and what Jesus does to help us get repositioned in faith. If you forget what Jesus said, or forget what you have read (in the Word) then unbelief will spring up there.

**I. Oh! I Forgot! The Women At The Tomb**

- A. In Luke 24:4-9, we find the women going out to the tomb. They must be commended because they were first go out to the tomb, first to receive the Good News, and first to become preachers.
  1. They were the first to find the empty tomb.
  2. As they looked at the empty tomb they were perplexed. ἀπονεω – perplexed. 'to be at a loss, to be uncertain, to be anxious, to be in doubt, consternation.' Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition, Vol. 1, p. 380). United Bible Societies.
  3. They find the tomb empty and they are filled with uncertainty and doubt. They were confused and trying to find an answer as to "why?"
- B. Then two angels appear
  1. *"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"* (Here is your clue!) *"He is not here but has risen."* (Here is your second clue.)
  2. Their command to the ladies was, "Remember what He told you!" THE WORD! Faith comes by hearing the message and the message through the Word of God.

*"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17, ESV)

3. The Word is what builds our faith! And for them to remember would mean faith arises in their heart to trust Christ...He is risen! Faith prompts three 'Rs'...

C. The three "Rs"

1. They remembered, what Jesus had said. He must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, crucified, and raised from the dead.
2. They returned to the apostles (vs. 10)
3. They repeated what they were told to the apostles. He must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, crucified, and raised from the dead.

## II. Tales of Unbelief Lk 24:9-12

- A. The apostles hear the news but, they say the women's story sounds like an idle tale.

1. They hear the women's words but they sound like a tale/story.
2. Because it sounds like a tale they do not believe.
3. The word for 'idle tale' is: ληροσ – non sense, silly talk. What scripture does this sound like?

- a) *"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* (1 Corinthians 1:18, ESV)
- b) *"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."* (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)
- c) To often our natural man stands in the way of faith. It is easier to trust the senses than it is to trust God. Μορία – foolishness – "What is meant is a weakness of understanding or judgment, sometimes through stupidity, sometimes through confusion, but always demanding censure." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., &

Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 620). W.B. Eerdmans.

- B. Vs 12 Peter ran to see for himself! "Show me!" His faith is much like Thomas—"unless I see the nails scared hands and side, I will not believe." To which Jesus replies, *"Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"* (John 20:29, ESV)

1. Peter marvels: 'Thaumazo' - And he marveled at what had happened. To marvel, is to bring out the inexplainable ways of God! Wonder, ponder, stand amazed.
2. Peter's marveling causes us to see a glimmer of a little bit of faith trying to shine through. The passage, so far, makes no reference to Peter's faith. But it sure is thinking about it in a positive light! Then we read vs. 34.
3. The men from Emmaus state, *"The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon."*
  - a) Peter must have expressed faith before the men heading to Emmaus left.

Simon apparently has returned to the others just as Jesus said he would.

- b) The men from Emmaus confirm Peter's faith. Each one of us may need our own experience with God (Peter/Thomas) to confirm our faith.
- C. When something strikes us as an 'idle tale', it is mental assent, not faith. And we need more proof to believe. Jesus does not condemn our 'Show me!' attitude of faith. But He does let us know it is weak. Blessed are those who believe but have not seen.

### III. Walking By Sight

Next we move to the men on the road to Emmaus vs. 13-35

- A. The Emmaus Road Doubters.
  - 1. They are walking by sight and not by faith. *"for we walk by faith, not by sight."* (2 Corinthians 5:7, ESV)
  - 2. If you are not in the place of faith you will be walking and discussing when you could be walking in and developing faith.
  - 3. Note: What they were discussing made them sad. (vs 17) What you believe determines your discussion! They believed Jesus was dead so they were sad.
  - 4. Not seeing (vs. 24) keeps us from believing. "Seeing" takes what we know from head faith to heart faith. 'Seeing' is when the Holy Spirit shines a light on a certain truth and it shines visibly so that we can see!
  - 5. Another issue with these disciples is that their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.
    - a) Jesus addresses their unbelief with the Word of God.
    - b) He goes through all the law and the prophets giving them the Word about himself.
    - c) Next, He gives them an encounter. (vs 31) their eyes open and they recognize Him and He vanishes from their sight.
- B. *"Luke has developed the metaphor, 'seeing' is a prerequisite for the affirmation that Jesus is alive. Failure of insight comes from failure to embrace the ways of God."* Green, J. B. (1997). *The Gospel of Luke* (p. 848). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- C. Though they were walking by sight, their senses, Jesus gives them both the Word and an encounter to establish their faith. The 'double whammy' solidifies their faith.

### IV. To Good To Be True

Lk 24:36-48 Jesus appears to them in a locked room.

- A. As they were talking Jesus himself stood among them! Now that is a faith builder! They thought it was a ghost. *"This is too good to be true."* And they doubted in their hearts!
  - 1. This is a lot for one day!
  - 2. But when you see all that Jesus does in His first resurrected day, it is simply to help them to believe. It is a foundation of faith being established in them. He wants them to be a faith community!

- B. He showed them His hands and feet. Let them see!
- C. He ate fish to prove he was not a ghost. Let them see!
- D. He took them back to the Word vs 44. "These are my words that I spoke to you..."
  - 1. He opened their minds to 'see' to 'understand.' vs 46-49
- E. He leaves them with another faith step. I am sending the promise of the Father upon you. Stay until you are clothed with power from on high!

**Conclusion:**

- This establishment of faith made them witnesses of the truth that He was really alive.
- One common theme in all of the unbelief references in chapter 24, is that when Jesus followers forget what He has said, or they forget what they have read (in the Word) Doubt and unbelief definitely rises up where the Word is forgotten.
- But, I am encouraged because of Jesus' tenderness towards us, in helping to get us into a place of faith, is so awesome!