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## What Happens When Perfect Melancholies Encounter the Risen Christ? **A Close Encounter with Living Truth**

Lesson 4

### **These are Close Encounters of the Real Kind with the Risen Lord!**

God uses the appearances of the Risen Lord to **prove the facts** of the Resurrection! Acts 1:1-3; Luke 1:1-3  
God also uses the appearances of the Risen Lord to **prove our faith** in the Resurrection! John 20:28-29

#### Overview of Luke 24

(1-12) The Tomb Was Opened, and Jesus Was Risen	Chris Is Resurrected from the Tomb
(13-27) The Scriptures Were Opened and Jesus Fulfills Them	Scriptures Explained by Christ
<b>(28-35) Their Eyes Were Opened, and They Recognized Him</b>	<b>Christ Is Present in Fellowship</b>
(36-49) Their Minds Were Opened, and Jesus Sends Them	Scriptures Fulfilled in Christ
(50-53) Heaven Was Opened, and Jesus Ascended	Christ Is Ascended to the Throne

### What Happens When Perfect Melancholies Encounter the Risen Christ?

Luke 24:13-35

#### 1. TWO CONFUSED FOLLOWERS: They Were a Dedicated but DEPRESSED Disciples!

1. The two disciples were intensely **dedicated** to the "**BIG PICTURE**"!

*Broken people always desperately try to fit together the pieces of their broken hearts!*

- They **knew** it. (19-24)
- They **followed** it. (13, 9-11)
- They **still didn't get it right**. (9-11, 21, 24)

2. They were emotionally **depressed** over the "**MISSING PIECE**"!

- They were definitely **melancholy!** (15-17)
- What was the problem? Luke 24:18-24
  - The **pieces** didn't **fit!** (19-20)
  - The **process** wasn't **right!** (21a)
  - The **promise** wasn't **fulfilled!** (21-23)
  - The **person** wasn't **seen!** (24)

Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he or she isn't there the first time you need them, chances are you won't be needing them again!

3. They were passionately **debating** about how to make it all "**FIT TOGETHER**"!

- The two disciples were **DISCUSSING the facts**. (14, 18-24)
- The two disciples were **DEBATING how the facts fit**. (15)
- The two disciples were **DISAGREEING over how the facts fit apart from faith**. (17)

## 2. A CONVICTING ENCOUNTER: The Two Are Asked REASONABLE Questions for a Revealing Purpose!

1. The “Traveling Stranger” asks WHY they are upset. (24:17-18)

*“What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?”  
And they stood still, looking sad. (17)*

### The Ironic Answer

One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him,  
*“Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?”*

2. The “Traveling Stranger” asks them to EXPLAIN. Luke 24:19-24

*And He said to them, “What things?” (19)*

3. WHY don’t you UNDERSTAND and believe?! Luke 24:25

*“O foolish ones”*

*“...and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!”*

- Slow of HEART
- Slow of heart to BELIEVE
- Slow of heart to believe ALL Luke 24:26; Acts 14:22

## 3. A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE UNDERSTANDING KIND: The Living Lord with the Living TRUTH!

### A Close Encounter with Living Truth *TRANSFORMS BROKEN HEARTS into BURNING HEARTS!*

The Fuel God Uses to Set Our Hearts on Fire

1. STUDY the Bible for the purpose of knowing and growing your *relationship* with the Living Lord! (27, 32)

#### Insights for Studying the Bible from Luke 24

- Christ is the center of all of the Scriptures and His person and work (the Gospel) fulfills them.
- Christ-centered exposition is the key to understanding God’s redemptive purpose in the Scriptures.
- Teaching and explaining the Scriptures coupled with hearing and understanding the Scriptures is the divine means of leading others to an obedient faith.
- Understanding the true meaning of the Bible and the Gospel is impossible unless the Lord explains its meaning to hearts He has softened and minds He has opened.
- Jesus uses His people to teach the Scriptures to one another.
- Studying the Bible is never an end in itself, it leads to Knowing Christ, Growing in Christ, Showing Christ, Going with Christ.
- Studying the Bible should never get in the way of knowing the Living Lord; it is the way to know the Living Lord.
- Studying the Bible should be done in the context of your relationship with Christ, fellowship with other believers, membership in a local church, and whole-hearted partnership in the ministry of the Word and work of the ministry.
- The hearts of true believers burn within them as God’s purposes are explained, as Christ is exalted, and the Spirit enlightens.
- True believers never, ever outgrow the Bible or pit the Written Word of God against the Living Word of God.

2. SPEND time enjoying the *fellowship* of brokenness and forgiveness with other believers! (28-31)

#### Insights for Spending Time with the Lord and His People from Luke 24

- The Broken but Living King is truly God and truly Man, so we should always keep this in mind as we fellowship with Him.
- The Broken but Living King wants to walk alongside of us through everyday life and sit with us in daily fellowship.
- The Broken but Living King is always with us even though we cannot see Him.
- Our broken sinfulness will never be fully healed until the Broken but Living King returns to reign on earth.
- True believers long to remain in close fellowship with the Broken but Living King until He returns in the same body.
- True believers long for others to join them in His company.
- True believers joyfully persevere in this fellowship even in the hardest of times and under the greatest pressure.

3. **SEEK** to make worship with the *membership* of this local church your priority on the Lord's Day! (33, 35)

**Insights for Seeking Church Membership from Luke 24**

- Members gather together to worship in a specific locale on the first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord's Day.
- Members gather together to be Word-fed and Spirit-led.
- Members persevere in worshipping together even in the hardest of times and under the greatest pressure.
- Members gather together to worship as believers and scatter to be witnesses to the lost.
- Members who gather together are empowered by the Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission among all peoples.
- The Living Lord appeared to the Early Church as they were gathered.
- True believers become outstanding members of local churches and never sever the Living Lord from His local body.

4. **SHARE** with others your spiritual journey and the Good News that Christ is risen indeed! (34-35)

**Insights for Sharing the Gospel from Luke 24**

- Sharing the Gospel ("these things") is essential to leading others to faith in the risen Lord.
- Sharing the Gospel with others is the natural result of believing the Gospel for oneself.
- Sharing the Gospel is a proclamation of the Name, Person, and Work of Jesus Christ as the risen King.
- Sharing the Gospel is an invitation to faith and repentance for the forgiveness of sins and regeneration.
- Sharing the Gospel is a mission to all people groups.
- Sharing the Gospel includes a witness to all that you have personally heard and seen from the Lord.
- Sharing the Gospel cannot be done effectively part from the power of the indwelling Spirit.
- Jesus uses His people to spread the good news of His Gospel to all people.

***A Close Encounter with the Living Lord  
TRANSFORMS BROKEN HEARTS into BURNING HEARTS!***

*Is Your Relationship Growing? • Is Your Fellowship Real?  
Is Your Membership Outstanding? • Is Your Partnership Whole-hearted?*