

## HELPING THE BLIND SEE Luke 24:13-49

### ELEMENTS TO LOOK FOR IN LUKE 24:13-49

- Care
- Slowness of belief
- Blindness
- Creativity

### Luke 24 (NIV) – On the road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> 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 recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast.

<sup>18</sup> 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?"

<sup>19</sup> "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.

<sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

<sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

<sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

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<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

- 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?"
- <sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

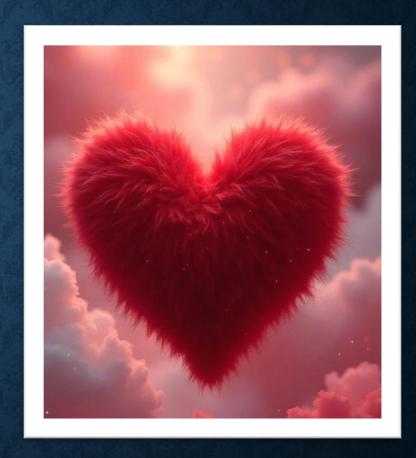
40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence. <sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

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# (1) JESUS CARES FOR THE LOST



### (2) PEOPLE ARE SLOW TO BELIEVE

In our passage, Luke 24

- v11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.
- v25 ... "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
- v41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement,...



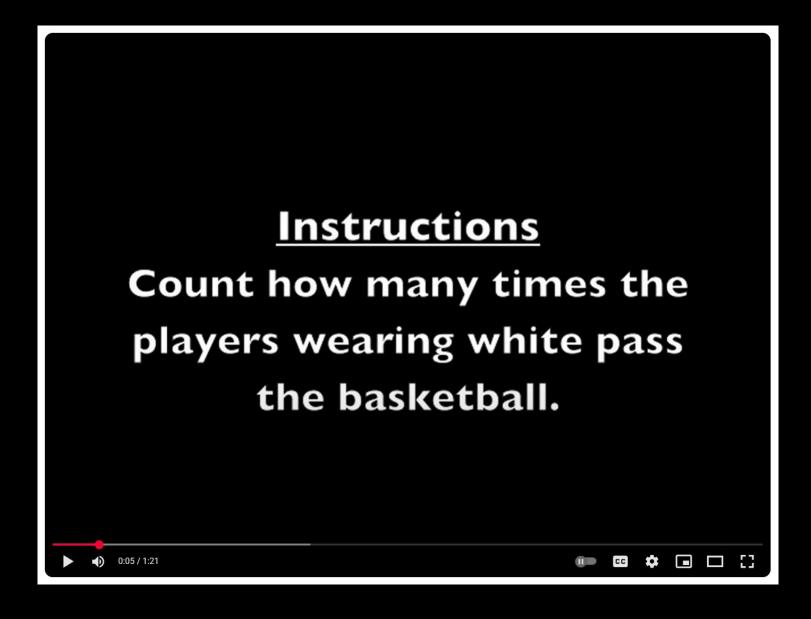
## (2A) PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR IT MANY TIMES

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In Luke 24, before the road to Emmaus story,

v6 ... Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee ...

v8 Then they remembered his words.



### (2B) PEOPLE ARE BLINDED BY THEIR PRECONCEPTIONS



v11-12 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb... and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

### (2B) PEOPLE ARE BLINDED BY THEIR PRECONCEPTIONS

v20-21 ... and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel ...

### LUKE 4:18-19

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."



## (3) JESUS CREATIVELY LEADS PEOPLE TO SEE



#### ANGELS MET THE WOMEN IN JESUS' TOMB

(Luke 24:1-12, before the road to Emmaus story)

- Angels reminded them of Jesus' words
- The women then shared with the others, who didn't believe
- But Peter ran to the tomb (half-believed?), and wondered

### JESUS WALKED WITH TWO DISCIPLES TO EMMAUS

- They were kept from recognizing him until the end
- He explained Scriptures concerning himself
- The Spirit revealed truth to their hearts (felt burning)
- Their hearts were so stirred, they invited him to stay on
- He broke bread, then opened their eyes and disappeared (physical evidence – broken bread)
- They returned to Jerusalem to tell the others

#### JESUS APPEARED TO DISCIPLES IN JERUSALEM

- Came while the two disciples were relating their story
- Got them to see his hands and feet, and touch him (physical)
- They still did not believe, so he ate a fish (physical)
- He opened their minds and explained the Scriptures
- They witnessed him being taken up to heaven



Matt 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matt 28:20 And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

### HELPING THE BLIND SEE

- (1) Jesus cares for the lost
- (2) People are slow to believe
  - (A) People need to hear it many times
  - (B) People are blinded by their preconceptions
- (3) Jesus creatively leads people to see

#### 5,515,037 **5.5M** Total Disciples 1,706,703 (2013-2024)3,808,334 1,634,583 New that year 2,173,751 Cumulative total from 668,496 previous years 1,505,255 \* Totals include both "new" disciples that year and 1,278,762 226,493 loses from previous years. 668,413 610,349 495,241 115,108 381,783 113,458 2013-17 2020 2018 2019 2021 2022 2023 2024

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