

May 4, 2025

CFBC... "First Words of the Resurrected Christ"

"A WORD OF TRUTH"

Luke 24:13-35

What's your most glaring example of "*missing the obvious?*" I'm sure some of you have launched an all-out search for your keys only to discover they were in your pocket the whole time. Or maybe you were frantically looking for your glasses when your spouse alerted you to the fact that they were on your head. It's easy to miss the obvious when *you're in a hurry, you're distracted, or you experience the unexpected.*

Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of the human race. His death and burial crushed the hopes and dreams of His disciples. They were fully expecting that the Jewish Messiah would put an end to Roman rule, establish the kingdom of God, and place them in leadership roles. When the stone was rolled against His tomb, disillusion and disappointment swept over them like a tidal

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wave. They firmly believed that dead people stayed dead.

Here's the truth. Jesus was raised from the dead. As a result, He conquered Satan, sin, and death. The resurrected Christ had some amazing encounters with His most committed followers. His first words to them addressed many of their deepest struggles as well as our own . . .

- **Death and grief**
- **Doubts and faith**
- **Dealing with failure**
- **Discovering purpose and meaning in life**
- **Discipleship and devotion**

Our Lord's first encounter was with Mary Magdalene. She met Him outside His tomb on the first day of the week. What a moving experience it was! His message to her was A WORD OF HOPE.

Today we're going to examine another one of the resurrected Christ's encounters. This time it would involve two disenchanted disciples who

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were walking toward their home in Emmaus. I think you will see that they missed the obvious.

Luke 24:13–16 ... And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

The phrase ***"and behold"*** introduces something new and unexpected (26 times in Luke's gospel). This encounter took place on Sunday as evening was approaching. These two disciples were having an *"animated and heated conversation"* about all that had transpired during the previous week—the *triumphal entry, the cleansing of the temple, the teaching ministry of Jesus, the Gethsemane experience, the arrest of Jesus, the trials, the scourging, the crucifixion, and the burial*. What did it all mean? What would they do now?

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Suddenly the risen Christ appears and joins them on their journey. However, their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. GOD DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO RECOGNIZE JESUS! He wanted their faith to rest upon the solid truth of God's Word, not a miraculous sign.

Luke 24:17–18... And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 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?"

Are you headed in the wrong direction in your life? I believe Jesus is looking for you just like He was looking for these two disciples. Pay attention. Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead so that you can be forgiven and receive eternal life. Don't miss the obvious!

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Jesus, the greatest of all teachers, often asked thought-provoking questions. He asked them, **"What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?"**

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?"**¹ I must say this is a classic case of missing the obvious.

Luke 24:19–20... And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

They had been discussing the things about Jesus the Nazarene. Their description was accurate, but it was short-sighted. Jesus was more than a

¹ John MacArthur, [Luke 18–24](#), MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014), 421.

prophet. He was the prophet Moses prophesied about, the prophet who would in fact be the Jewish Messiah.

Luke 24:21–24... “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 “But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. 24 “Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”

To arrive at the conclusion that Jesus had not risen from the dead, these men had to reject the clear testimony of. . .

- **Mary Magdalene who saw the risen Christ**
- **The women who had seen the empty tomb**
- **Angels who announced that Jesus was alive.**
- **Peter and John who saw the empty tomb**

The evidence was overwhelming, but these two disciples missed the obvious. They desperately needed a fresh understanding of the Word of God. So, Jesus opened the Scriptures and then He opened their eyes.²

Luke 24:25–27... And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The two disciples needed to know that...

- **The resurrection of Jesus was a historical fact.**
- **His death/resurrection were vital aspects of His messiahship.**

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 279.

- **This was God's plan for the redemption of Israel and the world.**

Acts 2:22–24 ... "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— **23** this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. **24** "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Cleopas and his companion were stunned as Jesus related how the Old Testament prophesied and pictured all that had taken place. Understanding the meaning of the Bible anchored their faith in reality and produced profound joy in their hearts.

Luke 24:28–31 ... **And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as**

though He were going farther. **29** But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. **30** When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

These disciples knew the facts of the gospel, but they had not yet recognized the face of the gospel.³ Jesus acted as though He were going farther. As Jesus started to leave, they strongly urged Him to stay with them. They were starving for genuine truth and a deeper understanding of the Scriptures and the kingdom.

Their "eyes were opened." Jesus opened their eyes for them. They recognized the resurrected Christ as He broke the bread and blessed the

³ Thabiti Anyabwile, [*Exalting Jesus in Luke*](#), Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2018), 356.

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meal. At that moment, "He vanished from their sight."⁴. What a glorious moment this was for them!

Some of you may feel as if you are on a road to nowhere. Things have not worked out like you thought it would. You are disillusioned and disappointed. It seems like the Lord has left you alone to stew in your misery.

As it relates to Jesus, have you missed the obvious? He's with you on this journey. He cares for you and wants you to turn around and head in the right direction.

The impact of truth had an immediate impact on the lives of these two disciples.

Luke 24:32–35 ... They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was

⁴ Thabiti Anyabwile, [*Exalting Jesus in Luke*](#), Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2018), 357.

explaining the Scriptures to us?" **33** And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, **34** saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." **35** They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

They immediately went back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples how the truth of God's Word related to everything that had happened. Jesus was alive and their hearts were on fire! This same kind of blazing joy prompted. . .

- Henry Martyn to exclaim, **"Now let me burn out for God."**
- David Brainerd to write in his diary, **"Oh that I could be a flame of fire in the service of my God!"**
- John Wesley to say of his conversion, **"I felt my heart strangely warmed."**

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Is your heart on fire for Jesus? Don't miss the obvious when it comes to the meaning of this story . . .

**GOD'S TRUTH CLEARS UP CONFUSION
AND GIVES DIRECTION TO OUR LIVES.**

I want to close this message by stating the obvious...

1. READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE.

Jesus clarified two facts— **the whole Bible is about Him**. He cleared up the confusion of 2 disciples by proving how the writings of Moses and the entire Old Testament applied to Him. We don't properly read our Bibles until we see how every part of it connects to the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's another fact—**our faith must be rooted in the Bible**. It's obvious!

2. HOLD ONTO THE TRUE GOSPEL.

The most important reality in the world is God's truth. It clears up the confusion concerning who Jesus really is and how we can be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures....

God forbid that we buy into the philosophies of the world and the false teaching of dead religions. Believe that Jesus died for your sins on the cross and that He was raised from the dead to justify you before God the Father!

3. RECEIVE JESUS BY FAITH.

The 2 disciples in our story received Jesus into their home. Will you receive Him into your heart and give Him a place of honor?

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John 6:47... "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

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