

CONFIRMATION OF RESURRECTION

Luke 24:36-44

The disciples are nervous. They're scared and upset.

They don't know what to do next.

Their Lord has been taken from them.

Now these stories about the resurrection begin to come in.

At first they dismiss them.

Then they can no longer dismiss them.

They must be true!

But now, what are they to do?

33-35 *They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together³⁴ saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.*

Jesus again appears to them. This time to the whole group. **36** *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

Scares them to death!

He demonstrates His resurrection and explains God's program, and their part in that program, in the light of His death, resurrection, and ascension.

First Jesus resolves their doubts about significance of His death.

Then, He answers their questions about the future:

What do we do now?

Importance of following section, isn't just it's message affirming that Jesus' death and resurrection were part of God's plan from the beginning.

It's also the challenge for the future.

It's God's answer to question: "What now?" "Why leave us here?"

COMMISSION 24:33-49

Jesus settles their doubts about His death and resurrection.

Confirmation of the resurrection 33-44

Jesus appears to His disciples to affirm His resurrection.

His appearance frightens them 24:36-40

He appears while they're discussing what's happened. **36**

They think they're seeing a ghost, or some sort of spirit.

They become frightened, terrified and troubled. **37**

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

They aren't prepared for this!

He reassures them. He's made of flesh and bones. **38-39**

He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 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."

A Spirit (ghost!) doesn't have a physical body.

He shows them His physical hands and feet. **40**

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

He explains what they're seeing. 24:41-44

They're amazed and still unbelieving

They can't believe it!

It's too good to be true!

He eats in front of them **41-43** *While they still didn't 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, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.*

He explains Scripture to show God's plan's being fulfilled

44 *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."*

Having dealt with their doubts about the past,

Jesus turns to deal with His purpose for them in the future.

We frequently need that order also.

When we can't understand what God is doing, ...

When His plan doesn't make sense, ...

we need assurance that He's in control

and that the things we don't understand are part of His plan for us.

Having resolved doubts, we have to take another look at what's next.

Why're we here? What does God want to accomplish through us now?