

Friday

In preparation for the services this weekend, read John 21:1-17. What are your initial observations about this passage?

How does this passage give you hope about your own failures and your future in God's plan?

Today, thank God for His grace and forgiveness to you!

Saturday

Please ask God to bless the services this weekend, that many lives would be touched. Thanks!



Raised Up: The Ultimate Comeback

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Easter Weekend: April 11 & 12, 2009

Today's Bible Passage: Luke 24:13-35 (page 749 in church Bibles)

"Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus... talking with each other about everything that had happened... Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'" *Luke 24:13-17a (NIV)*

Because of Christ's comeback...

1. I can come back from _____

"They stood **still**, their faces **downcast**." *Luke 24:17b*

2. I can come back from _____

"We had **hoped**..." *Luke 24:21a*

3. I can come back from _____

"...**he explained to them** what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself." *Luke 24:27*

Some Scriptures he could have shown them:

- Deuteronomy 18:15: God will send a prophet greater than Moses
- Isaiah 53:1-6: Messiah will be pierced for our transgressions
- Isaiah 53:7-12: Messiah to be put in a rich man's grave; yet will live
- Psalm 22:1-18: Crucifixion events foretold from Messiah's viewpoint, including exact words said on cross, that he'll thirst, be spat upon, mocked, pierced in hands and feet, lots cast for his clothing, his heart will burst, and more

"He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Then their **eyes were opened**, and they **recognized** him..." *Luke 24:30b-31a*

4. I can come back from _____

"It is true! The Lord has **risen!**" *Luke 24:34a*

"...we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead **will also raise us** with Jesus and present us with you in his presence." *2 Corinthians 4:14*

The bottom line:

Jesus was raised up so I can be _____

A Prayer for a Fresh Start

Lord, open my eyes. I need a comeback, a fresh start.

Help me to recognize you, the crucified and resurrected Christ, as the One with the power to renew me.

Help me trust that because you were lifted up, I will be lifted up!

As much as I understand, I commit myself now to Jesus Christ as my Lord.

In His name I pray, Amen.

Daily Meditations

Questions to consider throughout the week.

Monday

Read Luke 24:13-35. What emotions do you suppose Cleopas and his friend were feeling? How can you relate?

In the resurrected Christ's appearances to these men, to Mary Magdalene, and to the disciples in the upper room and later on the lakeshore, he seems almost playful. Why do you think this is so?

Although the two men did not recognize Jesus at first, they said "our hearts were burning within us as He explained Scripture." How is this similar to the experience we can have with Jesus today?

Ask God to help you see, in faith, your risen Savior Jesus Christ at work in your life each day.

Tuesday

Reread Luke 24:27 and read Luke 24:36-45. We all struggle with doubt at times. What did you learn about Jesus' response to doubt in these verses?

Read Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, just two of the many passages Jesus might have spoken about with Cleopas and his friend. On another page, list the prophecies in these chapters about Jesus.

How do you think these verses made Cleopas and his friend feel?

How do these prophecies help you? Which of these prophecies means the most to you?

Today, thank God for His power demonstrated conclusively in passages like this — and rest in Him, because you have proof here that He knows all about tomorrow!

Wednesday

The Bible says you and I have the power of the risen Christ at work in our lives if we believe in Him! Read Ephesians 1:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 4:13-14. What do you feel powerless over in your life?

How can God's power help in this situation?

If you really believed that you had the exact same power that raised Christ from the dead, what would you do that you have been hesitant to do?

Ask God to help you truly believe and understand that you are empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Thursday

Read a passage we like to rediscover each Easter: John 11:21-27. What do you say to Jesus' question: "Do you believe this?"

What difference has your faith in the resurrected Christ made in your life? What difference could it make if your faith was stronger?

Thank God today specifically for the hope of the resurrection — be specific about what it means to you! If you have never done it before, say "yes" to Christ's question in this passage: "Do you believe this?"



"We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence."
2 Corinthians 4:14 (NIV)

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