

## **The End and the Beginning**

### **Luke 24: 33-53**

This is our last study in Luke's gospel. As we have gone through it we have met the real Jesus. Last week we watched as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus met Him. They returned to Jerusalem to find Jesus had appeared to others also.

As the disciples were discussing these appearances, Jesus himself appeared to them all.

#### **The Great Reversal:**

If you put yourself in the shoes of the disciples you will understand the depth of Jesus' first words to them: Peace. He doesn't heap on further guilt, He extends grace to them.

Their response is one of fear – but Jesus confronts this with the truth of his resurrection. We may also have fears – for the present, or the future, which Jesus also confronts with the truth of His presence with us.

The resurrection is *the* Great Reversal, and it is only this physical turn around that can explain the turn around in the lives of the disciples: from fear to joy, and from being strict Jews to worshipping Jesus. It is the only thing that can explain how they turn the world upside down.

#### **Great Advance**

Having shown them He was very much alive, Jesus sets them up for the mission ahead. He tells them five things...

##### **1. It's all about Him**

All of scripture is about Jesus. He is the centre of it all. But Jesus has to open their eyes to see that. We need that help as well.

##### **2. There's a message to proclaim**

He gives the disciples (and us) a message of repentance and forgiveness. We cannot keep it to ourselves.

##### **3. Every nation needs to hear it**

Jesus says the message must go to every nation.

##### **4. Apostolic authority, personal witness**

The message will go out with their authority as eye-witnesses. They are our authority, but we can also bear witness to what Jesus has done in our lives.

##### **5. Holy Spirit Empowerment**

Jesus tells them they must wait for the Holy Spirit to come and give them the power they need. We cannot achieve the mission He gives the church in our own strength, but God gives us every resource we need in the Holy Spirit.

The gospel of Luke ends where it began, in the Temple. It opened with Zechariah, in the Temple, longing for God's deliverance to come to Israel. It ends with the disciples rejoicing they had seen that deliverance come. But whilst it is the end, it's also just the beginning!