

## THE STORY, Chapter 27: The Resurrection



### Discussion Questions

- 1) This week's chapter is about the resurrection of Jesus and the subsequent events that surround the Savior's return to life. We remember and celebrate this as a church with our most holy days of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.
  - a) What ways does/has your family celebrated this?
  - b) What is your earliest memory of hearing/believing the resurrection of Jesus?
  - c) Is there a particular time of celebration/remembrance of these days that you cherish?
    - i) When did you experience it?
    - ii) What is particularly memorable?
    - iii) Has what you experienced affected the way you celebrate since? Why / why not?
  - d) Why do you think the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is such a significant event?
    - i) Historically?
    - ii) Religiously?
- 2) Crucifixion was not instantly lethal, it inflicted maximum pain and prolonged suffering, sometimes even for days. It was as much a punishment as a deterrent.
  - a) Why is it significant that Jesus was found to be dead so soon?
  - b) What were the soldiers instructed to do to those crucified? What did they do instead and why?
  - c) What did the eyewitness see?
  - d) What did he, the eyewitness, attribute these events?

- 3) What do you think Jesus' followers were doing from Thursday morning to Sunday morning?
- 4) Who were the secret disciples of Jesus?
  - a) Why were they secret disciples?
  - b) What was their act of dedication and love for Jesus?
  - c) In history and today there are many secret disciples of Jesus too. What is the reason for their secrecy (do you think?).
    - i) What are the choices people have when they are confronted with a choice of going public?
    - ii) What is your opinion of people who are secretive about their discipleship of Jesus?
- 5) The Priests and Pharisees had listened closely to Jesus' words and promises. What did they do to show they had understood Jesus' claims?
  - a) What did they anticipate the disciples would do?
  - b) Why was this thought overestimating the disciples belief and commitment?
- 6) What did the Marys do to show their love for Jesus?
  - a) What was their question about what would happen when they got to the tomb?
  - b) What does this show they were expecting to find at the tomb?
  - c) Do you think you would have been any different if you had been listening to Jesus and had seen the crucifixion? Why or Why not?
- 7) What occurred at the tomb before the Marys got there?
  - a) What was the response of the guards?
  - b) What was the response of the women?
  - c) What was the statement of the Angel?
    - i) What did he invite the women to do?
    - ii) What did he instruct the women to do?
  - d) What was their emotional state when they left the tomb?
- 8) Which two disciples ran to the tomb? Describe what they found there.
  - a) What was the response of the "other disciple" when he saw the state of the tomb?
  - b) What do you think "they still did not understand from scripture" means?
  - c) Why is the empty tomb a significant event? What is the logical response to finding it empty?
- 9) What was Mary's conclusion at hearing/seeing the empty tomb?
  - a) What occurred to convince her this was the wrong conclusion?
  - b) What does this conversation show about Jesus' physical appearance?
  - c) What was Mary's response when she had her realization of who Jesus was? What does this mean?
  - d) What were the instructions Jesus give to Mary?

- 10) The journey to Emmaus- What occurred on this trip out of Jerusalem?
  - a) Why do you think Jesus hid His identity?
  - b) Why were the two travelers incredulous of Jesus' question?
  - c) What did Jesus do while they walked?
  - d) How did what Jesus spoke on that trip like the first time through "the Story?"
  - e) What was it that finally revealed Jesus to the two disciples?
- 11) The Emmaus travelers went back and reported what they had seen and heard to the disciples in Jerusalem.
  - a) Jesus appeared among the gathered disciples – what was their response? What would you have done in the same situation?
  - b) What did Jesus do to show that he was tangible and not a ghost?
  - c) What reassurances and commands did Jesus give the disciples gathered there?
  - d) What comfort and conclusions can present day Christians gain from this interaction between Jesus and his disciples?
  - e) What ways do the disciples lives change after Jesus' resurrection?
- 12) Is there any link between the doctrine of illumination and when it says Jesus "opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures"?
  - a) Give an example of a time where you had scripture illumined for you where what you didn't understand was made clear:
  - b) Have you ever been a part of the illumination process when you shared scripture and someone understood it?
    - i) What were the circumstances?
    - ii) What was the reaction?
- 13) What was Thomas' reaction to the disciple's report?
  - a) What happened a week later?
  - b) Why did Jesus accommodate Thomas' disbelief?
  - c) What is the statement Jesus makes about those who believe in Him without seeing?
  - d) How does this relate to everyone who believes since the first century?
  - e) What ways do we have to act in faith in what Jesus did?
  - f) What is the common future hope of all who have faith in Jesus?
- 14) In Galilee the disciples were waiting to see Jesus for the third time – what did they decide to do?
  - a) What was the result of these efforts?
  - b) How did Jesus reveal Himself to the Disciples at this time?
  - c) Who concluded that it was Jesus standing on the shore?
  - d) Which disciple reacted the most strongly to Jesus presence?

- e) How did Jesus already have fish cooking when the disciples came to shore? (Really I've always wondered!)
- 15) Jesus and Peter had an intimate conversation at this time – What did Jesus ask Peter three times?
- a) What was Peter's response to these questions?
  - b) What does this repetition, three times, remind people of in Peter's recent actions?
  - c) What is Peter's reaction on the third question? -Emotionally, -Speech
  - d) Jesus' instruction to Peter is to "Feed my sheep". How did Peter do this? How are we to do the same?
- 16) Later the disciples met Jesus on the mountain. What were their actions/reactions to Jesus here?
- a) Why is it significant that Jesus received worship?
  - b) What are your thoughts of the statement that "some doubted"?
- 17) What is Jesus command to the disciples while on the mountain?
- a) Where were the disciples (every disciple) supposed to go?
  - b) What were they supposed to do as a process of their travels?
  - c) What reassurance does Jesus give to the disciples to encourage them in doing what He's commanded?
- 18) Why was this written down? What purpose is there in creating a record of Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection?
- a) Because you've heard and read this story what are Christians to do with the Story?
  - b) What does 'making disciples' look like in 2019? (and beyond)
  - c) What is the responsibility of people upon hearing about Jesus?
  - d) What are the benefits of belief and the consequences of rejecting Jesus?
  - e) Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?