

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**Lesson # 6 April 4, 2023 - April 9, 2023**  
**Teacher (s): Deaconess Elaine Reed & Deacon Charles Blackmon**

**Unit II: Experiencing the Resurrection**

**Subject: Struggling to Accept**

**Text: Luke 24:13-27, 30-31**

**Key Verse:**

**“Their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight (Luke 24:13, KJV).”**

**Lesson Pointers:**

- 1. Distorted Vision (Luke 24:13-21)**
- 2. Rejecting Proof (Luke 24:22-24)**
- 3. Corrected Vision (Luke 24:25-27, 30-31)**

**Introduction:**

Our lesson today, “Struggling to Accept,” continues Luke’s detailed account of the report of JESUS’ resurrection and its effect on His disciples and other followers (Luke 24:1-12). Now that Sunday morning, a group of devoted women (Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, (Luke 24:10b.), went to the tomb to complete the task of anointing JESUS’ body for burial. However, instead of finding JESUS’ body, they were puzzled to discover that the heavy stone which sealed the tomb’s entrance had been moved. Finding out that JESUS’ body was missing was even more disturbing to them. In (2 Corinthians 5:7), Paul exhorts, “Walk by faith and not by sight.” Yet, things happen in our lives that challenge our faith and cause us to wrestle with what we profess to believe, especially things difficult to understand. The underlying cause of a “faith struggle” is the contrast between what we know and believe to be true and what we perceive to be true. An example, as believers, we know that GOD so loved humanity that He freely, freely gave His Son to die to redeem us. Despite how much we know and are taught about GOD and His Word, we can succumb to allowing reality to make us struggle with faith. JESUS’ disciples enjoyed the privilege of walking, talking, having fellowship with, and being taught by Him as the Son of Man. They saw and experienced His supernatural miracles. Yet, when they witnessed His death on the Cross, perception threw them into a faith crisis sight. What they had been taught about this event and its positive outcome was now perceived as an impossible reality. They struggled to accept the news that JESUS had risen, and their belief was fueled by their temporal perception of who JESUS was. They had been with Him but had not come to know Him. They had listened to His teaching but had not internalized His words. Therein is the solution to struggling to accept by faith what we find difficult to believe---pursuing GOD and getting to know Him intimately by spending time in His Word, meditating on it, and communing with Him through prayer.

**Point #1**

- **Distorted Vision (Luke 24:13-21)**

Distorted vision suggests that which does not seem real to the eye; familiar objects look wavy or bent incorrectly, halo or wavy effect, things don't seem to be what they should be. Here we are talking about the distorted vision of two of JESUS' followers after the events at the tomb. The followers traveled "to a village called Emmaus...talking with each other about everything that had happened" (Luke 24:13-14). Although they did not yet believe that JESUS had risen from the dead, they were trying their best to process the account that the women had given them that morning. Something remarkable had clearly occurred---but back from the dead. How could this be? The travelers could not accept that because they themselves had not witnessed that event for themselves. Can you relate? Was this once you or is this you today? As the travelers walked and talked, trying to figure it all out, guess who appeared? JESUS Himself and He began to walk along with them! And yet, the two men "were kept from recognizing him" (Luke 24:16). When JESUS asked them what they were discussing, for a minute, "They stood still, their faces downcast" (Luke 24:17). They were both distraught and a bit perturbed that this man could not understand their sadness. Then one of the men, Cleopas, finally asked JESUS, ironically, how He could not know the "things" (Luke 24:18-21) that had happened that week. The men then told JESUS what had happened to JESUS: (now remember they were not aware that they were talking to JESUS Himself for their vision was distorted); they begin to tell JESUS about His powerful words and words, His condemnation by the religious leaders, and His crucifixion. In the middle of their story, the men revealed both their hope and their lack of faith to JESUS: "we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). Their hope was now walking right alongside them, but they yet did not comprehend it.

### Point #2

- Rejecting Proof (Luke 24:22-24)

"Consider the source" is a response that usually indicates skepticism about something heard or the source of information received. In this case the "consider the source" and skepticism was what was told to these followers of JESUS by the women's report of the empty tomb and the vision of the angels (Luke 24: 22-23). This proof was rejected for two reasons, First, men in their culture did not value women's testimonies due to their marginalized status. Second, they acknowledged that some had gone to the tomb, verified that it was empty, but because they did not see JESUS alive, they cast doubt on what the women reported (Luke 24: 24). The men were "spiritually incredulous;" they required visible proof to believe. What do we do? What are required to do? "We Walk by Faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). They had a sight-based relationship with JESUS at this point and not a spiritual one. How many will admit to depending on sight and feelings as determiners of our relationship with GOD?

### Point #3

- Corrected Vision (Luke 24:25-27, 30-31)

After allowing the men to tell their story, JESUS now corrected them---and did not mince words while doing so: "Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory (Luke 24: 25-26)?" As JESUS would make it clear that the men had been given all the evidence they needed to believe. And yet, the visible events had shut their eyes to the truth. Like many in JESUS' time, they had likely expected a conquering Redeemer who kicked out the Romans, not a suffering one. Now the time had come for JESUS to explain the past few days' events: "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself " (Luke 24: 27). Something had already

taken place in the men's hearts, for once they reached their destination, they begged JESUS to stay with them (Luke 24: 28-29). JESUS sat down with them, "took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them (Luke 24 30)." The men's eyes "were opened and they recognized him (Luke 24: 31)," and then, almost immediately, JESUS disappeared. The living Word in their hearts had opened the way for the Living Word to appear to them in the flesh.

This lesson will be taught on Easter Sunday when we specifically celebrate JESUS' resurrection. As you hear it think of how if you are in a state of "struggling to accept," a state of "distorted vision," a state of rejecting proof" and needing a "correction of vision" in order to be in the state of "spiritual insight," then pay close attention to how the actions and attitudes after encountering JESUS, his followers were; now note that this did and will involve confession, submission, and communion (fellowship) with JESUS, (on a daily bases). First, they honestly and openly acknowledged their feelings and lots of hope. Second, they allowed themselves to be taught to clarify the misconceptions they held about JESUS and His mission. Finally, they desired and spent time in His presence, this must be done daily. If you faithfully do this, then the results will be that your spiritual eyes will be opened, and you will be prepared to witness the Resurrection's reality and that will be and is GOOD news.