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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2061 ~ Jesus Appears to His Disciples.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Although the risen Lord Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women near His empty tomb on Resurrection Morning, Peter and John visiting the empty tomb soon after, saw no one, not even an angel.

Later that day, two other disciples who had heard the women's stories of angels in the tomb and of seeing the risen Lord Jesus, were on their way home to a village called Emmaus. As they walked along the route for the 7 miles from Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus Himself joined them and asked them why they were so sad.

In Matthew, Chapter 24, the disciples gave an account of what cruel treatment had been given to Jesus and included the women's witness of Him rising from the grave. But they expressed their disappointment over thinking Jesus was the Messiah to lead Israel to victory over their enemies. Jesus patiently explained to them the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah and how they predicted the Messiah would be killed. When the trio reached Emmaus, it was getting on towards evening and they persuaded Jesus to spend the night with them, so He went into their house with them.

When it came time to eat, Jesus sat at the table with them, took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. At this point, the two disciples recognised Jesus and He disappeared from their sight.

That Resurrection Sunday was the greatest, most joyful, most victorious day in the history of the world. But where were Jesus' closest disciples? When the two men from Emmaus arrived back in Jerusalem, the other disciples except for Thomas the Twin, were hiding in fear of the Jewish leaders. The leaders knew that Jesus' body had gone and so had accused the disciples of stealing it to cover up the truth that He had risen.

When persecution broke out, what did the disciples do? They hid out of sight of the chief priests and the government officials. They were really afraid of what was going to happen to them. Fear is a distressing emotion and can come from many sources. The disciples believed that physical danger was close at hand. But some people can be afraid of criticism or rejection while others of sickness, death and what will happen in the future. The Bible tells us many times NOT to be afraid. We are to fear God, which means to give Him alone our worship and respect. We're not to fear any other person or let ourselves worry about what might happen.

The disciples in the upper room no longer had their leader to organise or guide them and they hadn't yet received the Holy Spirit. For Christians, fear can rob us of heartfelt joy and prevent us from serving Christ as we should. For some people, there can be a constant battle between having faith and being fearful.

Fear rips away from our hearts and minds our God-given peace and will become a source of sickness in our bodies. Fear brings negative thoughts to mind, which can adversely affect our decision making. But not all fear is bad for us. At times it can be life-preserving. Take the situation of a person about to cross the street. When the person notices a car coming at considerable speed, he pulls back to the footpath and waits for the car to go first. It's only when fear takes over and continually controls us that we need to deal with it by focusing on Jesus's strength and victory and not what troubles us. In Isaiah, Chapter 26, Verse 3, it says: "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind stays on You, because he trusts in You."

When the men from Emmaus told the other disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and had spent time with them, the others were completely amazed. Not among the women, nor the disciples in the upper room or the men from Emmaus was there a hint that Jesus' resurrection was expected. Such amazement is important to take note of because it shows even Jesus' own followers had to be convinced of His resurrection. Although Jesus had predicted His resurrection six times in Luke's Gospel, it's clear that the disciples had never really understood what Jesus was promising.

When the two disciples of Emmaus told their story, they too were greeted with a report like their own: "The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon!" This was new information in Luke, Chapter 24, as earlier in the chapter, all Luke had reported was that Peter had seen the empty tomb. Yet as the disciples discussed the reports of Jesus' appearances, He suddenly appeared in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

The disciples were still trying to process all this news and then they were seeing a miracle, Peace was hardly their reaction. Rather, they were startled and frightened. They were convinced Jesus was a spirit or ghost, as the doors hadn't been opened. John doesn't say how Jesus entered the room where the disciples were, but it certainly wasn't through an open door.

Even with the numerous reports of His appearances, the idea that Jesus had come back alive and was present with the disciples was hard for them to accept. Only a quick succession of demonstrations convinced them and the community that it was true. Jesus dealt with the disciples' shock by challenging them: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Jesus invited them to determine once and for all that what had been reported was true. Offering himself to be handled, Jesus wanted to lay to rest for all time any doubt about His resurrection's truthfulness.

Jesus showed the disciples His hands and feet and there was no denying the facts: Jesus really was there. The disciples hadn't made up the stories that they had heard. Before them stood the crucified Jesus with all the marks of nails in His body to prove He had died and overcome sin. Although the disciples still fought with unbelief, it was mixed with joy as the truth slowly dawned on them. To prove the point, Jesus asked for food: "Do you have anything here to eat?" He accepted some broiled fish and He ate it. Eating the food destroyed the disciples' idea that Jesus was a 'spirit'. Jesus really had a body and He was in the room with them.

While some people find it hard to believe that the resurrection of Jesus to be the truth, be assured that it did take place. Its reality means that Jesus' claims are true. He was more than a teacher and more than a prophet. Jesus was the promised, anointed one of God. In time, crowds of doubters saw that this was so and they too believed. Do not hesitate as these men did. Remember what God required of His Messiah: suffering, then the highest approval with praise and honour.

By taking the disciples back to the Scriptures, Jesus showed that what took place was always part of God's plan and promise. God's power raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him the name which is above every other name. God crowned Him with honour, glory and power and gave Him the highest position in Heaven – a seat at God's own right hand. The Apostle John saw Christ's glory as His complete purity, righteousness, sinlessness, love, light, truth, grace, humility and power. All of these qualities and more are part of Christ's glory.

Luke highlights the point by speaking about all the Prophets and interpreting all the Scriptural promises that centre on Jesus. Such texts are a primary witness to Jesus. We can be rest assured that Jesus is who He claims to be. To say "Jesus is risen" is to say that He is with us. Although Jesus has dealt with the sin of the world and made a way back to God for all who long to be free from sin, His role on earth isn't finished yet. Someday, Jesus will judge all the people of every generation of the world and He will do this justly. In Psalm 19, it says: "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

When it comes to Judgment Day, sometimes people say that they believe in a God who's not judgmental. That sounds good, but here's what they are really saying: "I believe in a God who doesn't care about what's right or wrong." To put it more bluntly, they are saying they believe in a God they have just made up in their heads, as the Bible says God is full of justice, holiness and righteousness, and the earth's supreme judge.

If God is really loving, then God is also just. That's what the Bible tells us. The love of God makes Him a righteous judge. Know this: No one will be in heaven because they deserve to be there. Nor will anyone be in hell who does not deserve to be there and no one will be in heaven who went there unwillingly. One writer summed it up this way: "Scripture sees hell as self-chosen. Hell appears as God's gesture of respect for human choice. All receive what they actually chose: Either to be with God forever, worshipping Him or to be without God forever, in the hopelessness of hell."

If you end up in hell, then you went there because you rejected His offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. You rejected Jesus and all that He did for you. But if you ask God to forgive you off your sins, He will remove them and make you fully clean, changing and transforming your life into the likeness of Christ. You'll be born again to live a new life for God. You start and maintain the Christian journey by talking with the Lord and copying His example each day.

A modern evangelist explained why up to 80% of people who make a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ fall away after a little time.
The evangelist then stated that the modern methods of asking people to come to Jesus for a better or happier life are wrong. Christians have to give listeners an understanding that a judgment day is coming that they need to be prepared for.

There's a false idea held by many people about what heaven is actually like. Everyone agrees that it'll be a wonderful place but only Christians want to go there to worship their God. The false idea is that heaven is like earth: you can do what you want and you don't have to answer to anyone about anything.

In Psalms, Chapter 29, Verse 2, it says: "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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