

Basic thought flow

3 sections
3 groups of people who encountered the post-resurrected **LORD**

The women

The 2 Disciples

The 11 Disciples ++

The characters' disposition

- ① Lack of faith in the Lord's word (reflected in the lack of anticipation of the resurrected Lord)
- ② Lack of understanding of scriptures

The focus of the Lord's response to them

- ① The Lord's own teaching
- ② Scriptures

The undirected & directed response after encountering the Lord

- ① Spontaneously told others
- ② Commissioned to tell others

1 The Women Believed & Tell of the Unbelievable



Disposition

Went to Jesus' tomb.

Fact: they took spices to anoint Jesus' body → expected to see Jesus' body in the tomb.

Response to their surprise

- **Told to recall Jesus' word and teaching (24:6, 7)**
 - Luke 9:22
 - Luke 9:31
 - Luke 9:44
 - Luke 13:32 – 33
 - Luke 18:31 – 33
- **The women remembered Jesus' word (24:8)**

Their response when they knew the Lord Jesus had resurrected:

TELL OTHERS

Disciples' disbelief:

- Incredibility of women's testimony (24:10)
- Regarded as telling idle tale (24:11)

2 The Two Disciples Believed & Tell of the Unbelievable



Disposition

Their recount of the event showed they had not understood the

significance of the event nor of who Jesus really is

- The traveller is like them
- Jesus is a man from Nazareth
- Jesus is a mighty prophet
- Messiah: redemption of Israel

They heard the women's testimony → did not believe

Response to their inability to perceive spiritual truth:

Pointed them to scriptures

- v.26 – OT prophecy of the nature of the Messiah's work
- v.27 – Jesus INTERPRETED to them all of OT about Himself
- v.30, 31 (+v.35) - Their eyes were opened to recognize the Lord at the breaking of bread
- Almost exact same words in Lk 22:19

Their response when they knew the Lord Jesus had resurrected:

TELL OTHERS

The emphasis of their message to the 11 → Declarative statement: the Lord has risen indeed!

- substantiated this declaration with a third witness → Simon Peter

3 The 11 Disciples ++ Believed & Commissioned to Preach the Unbelievable



Disposition

They are now hearing the testimony about the risen Christ from a second group of people.

Response to the disciples:

- Appeared by a supernatural means yet proving the physical reality of His resurrected body
- v44 – 46 - **POINTED THEM TO HIS TEACHINGS on Scriptures**
 - the Lord opened their minds to understand that all they had read in the OT is about Him.

The commissioning of the disciples after they knew the Lord Jesus had resurrected through Scriptures:

PROCLAIM TO OTHERS

- Content of the message (v.47):
 - Repentance
 - Forgiveness of sin
 - The message of Jesus' death and resurrection **not opened** to any other interpretation
→ faithfulness to the message required as witnesses

Conclusion ①

THE ASCENSION: THE END OF JESUS' PHYSICAL PRESENCE & START OF THE MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION



Conclusion ②

THEY BELIEVED: RESPOND IN WORSHIP



Think, Pray, Do ①

FAITH AND EVANGELISM

The proclamation of the gospel to others is an act of faith and evidence of faith.

- What makes you dare tell someone something that is unbelievable by conventional wisdom and knowledge?
- How is preaching the gospel as much an expression of faith as prayer, worship, fasting...?

When we preach the gospel, we are given the privilege to express our faith and experience/ apply the courage that came with this God-given faith.

Think, Pray, Do ②

FAITH AND NEW LIFE

The narrative here presents a before-and-after picture of one when he/she did not understand spiritual things and when he/she was given to understand.

- Newness of life in Jesus is something that we perhaps lost as time goes by (we associate "new" with the immediacy of time and "old" with passing of time.)
 - What is new for a person who believed Jesus?
 - How do we continue to see and experience newness of life?

Be faithful to that which God has restored – worship, trust in God, listening and obeying His word

Think, Pray, Do ③

FAITH AND THE WORD OF GOD

It is significant that in all three post-resurrection & pre-ascension encounters, the focus is on scriptures.

- What do we expect when we ask God's presence to be with us?
- When Jesus' ascension marked the end of His physical presence, how does God's word fulfil our desire for His presence with us?