



The Resurrection

The Story – Chapter 27; Matt. 27-28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 19-21

Personal Study Guide

April 12, 2009

Read the chapter from *The Story* in one sitting (each chapter is about 12 pages long). Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. Jesus' death occurred precisely as predicted by prophetic Scriptures (page 315). What do these details offer us as far as reinforcing the trustworthiness of the Bible? What are some other things you read in the Bible that help you have confidence in its divine origin? What questions still remain for you?
2. The particulars of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem as well as details of his death were well known to all in the area—a fact pointed out by Cleopas and the other disciple with him (page 317). Why do you suppose it was important for God to perform this act in such a public way? Given how widespread knowledge about all this was, how is it possible anyone still refused to become a Christian? How have you seen similar resistance to God in our own day?

Day Two

1. Jesus' resurrected body was a curious blend of physical properties normal to human beings, like being able to eat fish and having flesh and bones (page 318), but it also had features unlike our bodies, such as having wounds that did not bleed and being able to go in and out of rooms miraculously (pages 318 and 319). How do these realities confirm that it is really Jesus who resurrected, and also teach us that resurrected existence is very different from normal biological life?
2. Jesus explained to his disciples how the Scriptures predicted the details of his life and suffering (page 318), and he gave his disciples a gift: "he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures" (page 319). How does he do that for us today? Describe a time recently when you felt God impress the meaning of a Scripture on your heart in this way.

Day Three

1. Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus took place over a charcoal fire; and now, on page 320, he is asked by Jesus to affirm his love three times—also over a charcoal fire. What do you think Jesus is up to in Peter's life by recreating those details?
2. Jesus' final words to the disciples include the phrase "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (page 320). What if he had said, "teaching them everything I have commanded you"? What is the essential difference between those two commands? What is an "obey" issue you are aware of in your life these days?