

**“The End is the Beginning”**

Luke 24:36-47

**1. Background**

After Jesus rose from the grave:

- He appeared 11 different times...
- Over a period of 40 days (Acts 1:3)
- To more than 500 witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6)

Luke 24:36 introduces the 5<sup>th</sup> post-resurrection appearance of Christ.

**2. The Startling Reality of Christ’s Resurrection (vv. 36-38)**

Why were the disciples startled and frightened?

Did the disciples believe in ghosts?

Four attempts to explain away the resurrection:

1. The Bible is not an accurate historical record.
2. Jesus didn’t actually die on the cross.
3. The disciples lied about the resurrection.
4. The disciples hallucinated about the resurrection.

**3. The Physical Nature of Christ’s Resurrection (vv. 39-43)**

Four tests that demonstrate the physical nature of Christ:

- Eye exam
- Hearing test
- Touch test
- Taste test

Why is the *bodily* resurrection of Christ important?:

- It corrects the false teachings of “dualism”
- It affirms human nature as an essential union of body/spirit/soul
- It demonstrates that God cares about how we treat our body and behave in our body (1Cor. 6:19-20)
- It assures that we will receive glorious resurrection bodies that transcend the limits of space and time

#### 4. The Prophetic Certainty of Christ's Resurrection (vv. 44-47)

The disciples witnessed the fulfillment of prophecy:

- The crucifixion of Christ (Isaiah 53:5-6)
- The resurrection of Christ (Psalm 16:9-11)

What makes Easter come to life for us *personally*?

***Luke 24:45 – “he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”***

#### 5. Conclusion

Have you met the Risen Savior?

Pray this simple prayer... “God, open my mind to understand to the Scriptures.”

Romans 10:8-10 – “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

#### **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:**

1. What was the most enjoyable Easter you can remember having? What made it so special?
2. Why is it extremely unlikely that the disciples would lie about the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Why is it important that Jesus rose bodily from the grave?
4. How would you describe what our glorified bodies will be like after the resurrection? What are you looking forward to the most about having a glorified body?
5. What is the message of Easter in your own words?