



The Ultimate Comeback

April 6/7, 2013

Connect with Others *(Choose one)*

1. Describe a time when you experienced a broken dream or broken heart. What were the circumstances? How did you comeback from the set back?
2. Outside of the resurrection of Jesus, what is one of your favorite "Comeback" stories?

Commit to Growth

Read Luke 24:1-35

1. **Describe what you would have thought and felt had you entered the tomb with these three women (24:3). What is the significance of what these women were carrying? What had they come to do?**

As Pastor Rick shared, these women were carrying spices, not colored Easter eggs! They were going to a cemetery, not an Easter egg hunt! If we are to grasp the significance of the story, we need to realize that none of his followers thought he was actually going to rise from the dead. They were in mourning. They were discouraged. And so when they found the empty tomb, they probably thought that someone had stolen his body.

2. **Read Mark 16:6,7. Why do you think the angel instructed the women to tell his message to the "the disciples and Peter"? Why do you think Peter would want to go to the tomb and see for himself (24:12)?**

There is significance to the storyline of Peter. These words are intended to be here. Having earlier experienced a fulfilled prediction of the Lord (22:54-62), Peter had to be curious. In addition, Peter was crushed by his denials of Jesus. And yet, these are all signs of Jesus' restoration of Peter.

3. **What do you think caused these men to leave Jerusalem (24:13)? Why didn't they recognize Jesus when he joined them?**

Was it fear? Disillusionment? Despair? Discuss the theories. Relate to the point of Pastor Rick's message...it's normal to try to and run away from our problems.

4. Why did Jesus do a roundabout Bible study, rather than just reveal His identity immediately and directly (24:25-31)?

Jesus tells them the story of the Bible and how it all points to a suffering Messiah who would have to die to save people from their sins. Even though the prophet Isaiah had talked about a suffering servant, no one was making the connection. The disciples had to learn that before Jesus could be resurrected, He first had to die. I believe there is significance to this lesson being learned and understood before Jesus revealed himself.

5. According to these passages, what does Jesus' resurrection accomplish for us?

a. Romans 6:1-4

We have been raised with Christ in order to live a new life. The old self was crucified with Christ, we have a new identity in Christ, freed from sin. We have been united with Christ in his resurrection. There is a new quality and character to our lives.

b. 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Paul gives six disastrous consequences if there were no resurrection: 1) preaching Christ would be senseless; 2) faith in Christ would be useless; 3) all the witnesses and preachers of the resurrection would be liars; 4) no one would be redeemed; 5) all former believers would have perished; 6) Christians would have no hope.

6. What do you think is the significance of this phrase in Luke 24:34, "It's true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."? How might Jesus be preparing Peter for his own personal comeback?

See notes on Question #2. God is up to something here! Discuss it among yourselves.

7. Finish this sentence: In my current setbacks, the lessons that God is teaching me are....