

Doubt

What major problem did Jesus deal with between the Resurrection and the Day of Pentecost? You would expect the apostles and other close disciples would have been strong in the faith as the events of the crucifixion took place. Why? Jesus, during his final months before going to Jerusalem, constantly drilled His disciples that He must suffer many things to fulfill the scriptures, give His life as a ransom for many, be buried and raise again on the third day.

Yet, it is amazing how Jesus had to deal with the doubts of His disciples after the resurrection. Consider the following scriptures that reveal the difficulty of the “doubt problem” that Jesus encountered. Before they could ever fulfill the great commission, doubts would have to be erased and the hearts prepared for the special event scheduled for the Day of Pentecost.

Forty Days from the resurrection to the Ascension. Note the battle of the mind and the success of Jesus to win the battle were vitally connected to the Scriptures.

Morning of the first day:

“[Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. And when they heard that He was alive, and had been seen by her, *they refused to believe it*” (Mark 16:9-11).

“Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the {mother} of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. And these *words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them*” (Luke 24:10-11).

The evening of the first day:

“And after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking along on their way to the country. And they went away and reported it to the others, *but they did not believe them either*” (Mark 16:12-13). The two men walking to Emmaus, “And He said to them, *“O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”* And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures” (Luke 24:25-27). The two men reported to the eleven: “And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst. But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and *why do doubts arise in your hearts*” (Luke 24:36-38)?

Eight days later:

“The other disciples therefore were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” And after eight days again His disciples were in side, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, “Peace {be} with you” (John 20:25-26).

Galilee (2 wks. later)

“But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. And when they saw Him, they worshiped {Him} *but some were doubtful*” (Matt 28:16-17).

Jesus spent forty days of battling against doubt! How did He do this? It was by the testimony of the Scriptures! You must establish your belief system, based on the scriptures, not on the five senses! “Now He (Jesus) said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).

Erasing doubts is a process. The most effective method is saturating your mind with the scriptures. Testimonies, dreams and visions will fall short. They are supportive, but it is the word of God that erodes away the doubts of the mind. Also, pray that God will “open your mind to understand the scriptures.

From the ascension of Jesus from the Mount of Olives until the Holy Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost was seven days. The 120 who had been convinced that Jesus had been raised from the dead, were in prayer, waiting and expecting the promise of the Father.

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