

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Week Six

Day One

RISEN! JUST AS HE SAID

“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.”

(Matthew 28:6)



Unlocking the Mystery

Have you ever been studying something or been listening to something that you just could not understand, and then all of a sudden the next time you study it or hear it you gain a clear understanding of it? Looking back it really doesn't make any sense that you hadn't understood it before. I have experienced this in academics, in my music preparation, in reading a book, in listening to my husband or kids explain something, and most especially in reading the Scriptures. I often get frustrated at myself as to why it took so long for me to get it.

I wonder if the disciples were frustrated at themselves after having their eyes opened or after gaining understanding from the time they heard that Jesus was alive until the time that He ascended back into heaven to go home. Scripture points out several places that Jesus told them before His crucifixion what was going to happen...including being raised from the dead. When He resurrected He began to show Himself to different people, and Scripture tells us that many people didn't "get it" until He opened their eyes or their understanding. I imagine they asked themselves, "Why didn't I understand until now?"

The answer to that is the mystery we are unlocking today. Jesus' death and resurrection had been predicted many times; some by people in the Old Testament and some by Jesus, Himself. I love that He took time to help people understand what they had heard. I love that the Holy Spirit included that into the Scriptures to teach us that at times when we don't get something, we can ask Jesus to open our eyes to the truth that is being taught, to open our understanding of the message that is being written on our hearts. Just as He demonstrated that while He was here on earth, we can know He still does that from heaven above. Today, we are going to explore those times when Jesus taught about the resurrection, and when He opened their spiritual eyes or minds for them to understand.



Understanding the Word

First, let us take time to see some of the places Jesus told of the death and resurrection which were about to take place.

DIGGING DEEPER: John 2:12-25

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: John 2:19-22

Jesus enters and clears the Temple at the beginning of His ministry. This made the Jews angry, so they demanded a miraculous sign to determine authority to do this.

V. 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will _____ it again in _____ days.”

V. 20-21 What Temple was the Jews referring to? _____

What Temple was Jesus referring to? _____

V. 22 _____ He was raised from the dead, His disciples _____ what He had said, Then they believed the _____ and the _____ that Jesus had spoken.

Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council was sincerely questioning Jesus about entering the Kingdom of God. A part of Jesus’ conversation includes a prediction of His death, relating it to an Old Testament historical moment.

DIGGING DEEPER: John 3:1-21

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: John 3:14-15

V. 14-15 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the _____ of _____ must be _____, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were demanding a miraculous sign from Him. Jesus answers with this analogy from the Old Testament which is a prediction of His death and resurrection.

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 12:38-45

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 12:40

V. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the _____ of _____ will be _____ days and three nights in the _____ of the earth.

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 16:21-28; Mark 18:31-9:1; Luke 9:22-27

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 16:21

This response comes from the middle of His ministry. As the hatred of the Jewish leaders heightened, Jesus brought His disciples together to teach them and prepare them for all that was to come. They, however, didn't understand.

V. 21 From that time on Jesus began to _____ to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and _____ many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the Law, and that He must be _____ and on the third day be _____ to life.

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-33

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 20:18-19

This teaching comes as Jesus and the twelve disciples are approaching Jerusalem for the Triumphal Entry. He took them aside to teach them once again what was about to happen.

V. 18-19 We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. They will condemn Him to _____ and will turn Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and _____.

On the _____ day He will be _____ to life!

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 18:31, 34

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V.31 ...We are going up to Jerusalem, and _____ that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be_____.

V. 34 The disciples did not _____ any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what He was talking about.

This response comes from a time when the disciples were trying to cast out a demon. They couldn't do it, so Jesus did it. After which, they go on their way and Jesus teaches them.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Mark 9:31, 32

V. 31 The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days He will rise.

V. 32 But they did not _____ what He meant and were afraid to ask Him about it.

We have looked at three specific places in the Gospels that say Jesus took the disciples aside to teach them about His impending death and resurrection. We have looked at two Old Testament references Jesus used to prophesy, as well. For even more teaching and prophesying read the sections about the LAST SUPPER in each Gospel. We have seen clearly that the disciples DID NOT understand at that time what was to come or the implications with it.

Next, let us take time to see the places He opened their eyes and understanding. This gives a harmony of the Gospels' account of the resurrection.

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-49; John 20

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: John 20:9, 13-16

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb...saw the stone rolled away...ran to get Peter and John. They looked in and saw the linen lying there...but no Jesus. They eventually believed He was raised from the dead...however

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V. 9 They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus _____ to rise from the dead.

V. 13 Two angels that were there asked Mary, “Woman, why are you crying?”

What did she think happened? _____

V. 14-16 She turned around and saw a man standing there asking her whom she was looking for; who did she think it was? _____ Who was it really? _____

Her eyes and understanding were then opened.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 24:6-7, 8

V. 6-7 This Gospel records the angels saying... “_____ how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee? ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”

V. 8 THEN they _____ His words.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 24: 13-35

Two men were walking to a village called Emmaus. They were discussing everything that had happened concerning Jesus’ death. Jesus came and walked alongside of them; but they were kept from recognizing Him.

Jesus eventually spoke about all that was said concerning Him in Scripture. He stayed with them and eventually went to their house to eat. After He took bread and gave thanks...

V. 31 Their _____ were _____ and they recognized Him...

V. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He _____ with us on the road and _____ the _____ to us?”

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 24:44-47

Jesus makes His way to the disciples while they were eating.

V. 44 He said to them, “this is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

V. 45 Then He _____ their _____ to they could _____ the _____.

V. 46-47 He told them, “this is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem...”



What Jesus impressed deeply into my heart during the study and preparation of this lesson is this... Just as Jesus told His disciples over and over what was going to happen prior to His death and resurrection and they didn't understand, I fear that we are going to do the same.

Jesus has told us over and over again in His Word about how to receive Him, about how to gain eternal life, about how He is coming back, about when He is coming back, about the importance of living for Him and about being ready for His return. Unfortunately, we claim we don't understand. We don't get it. Why is it my fear that we don't get it this time? Because if we wait until afterwards to understand this time, we will miss it. We will miss the rapture. We will miss the eternal kingdom. The consequences are too high! It is imperative that we understand the Scriptures NOW. It is of the utmost importance that we abide by the Holy Word of God so we will one day reside with Him.

It is a beautiful thing that the same Jesus that resurrected and showed Himself to His followers is the same Jesus that ascended into Heaven and gave the Holy Spirit to us all, so we can have our eyes and our minds opened NOW to the Scriptures. The Word of God tells me that if I seek Him with all my heart I will find Him. It says that if I draw near to Him, He will draw near to me. We take the steps toward understanding the words written in the Bible, then the Holy Spirit, the part of God that lives in us as believers, opens our eyes and minds to the understanding .

Pray to Jesus before reading His Word. Pray for understanding and wisdom concerning how to live your life according to His Word. Ask God to lead you to scripture that guides your integral living and then ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to do as the Scriptures say. That is how we live with the Integrity of God!