

# An Unexpected Dinner Guest

## Luke 24 v 36-49

### Context:

Last week we joined Jesus as he came alongside two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus on the first Easter Sunday. At first, they didn't recognise him, but as Jesus taught them from the Old Testament and broke bread at their table, their eyes were opened, and they could see it was Jesus. Immediately, Jesus disappeared, and the two disciples ran as fast as they could back to Jerusalem to share the good news with their colleagues. Then, as their excited words tumbled out of their mouths, Jesus appeared. Let's pick up the story in v 36.

### Observation:

1. What greeting did Jesus give them in v 36?
2. What was their initial reaction and why (v 37)?
3. What did Jesus say and do in response (v 38-40)?
4. What was the disciples' reaction now and why according to v 41a?
5. So, what did Jesus then say and do (v 41b-43)?
6. What did Jesus tell them in v 44?
7. What did Jesus do in v 45 and what did that mean specifically in v 46-47?
8. What does he remind them of in v 48?
9. What promise and command did Jesus give them in v 49?

### Meaning:

1. Jesus' greeting in v 36 was a standard greeting in Hebrew culture. However, in what ways do you think this *specific* greeting would have impacted them at that particular moment?
2. Why do you think they thought Jesus was a ghost (or literally a 'spirit') and why would this have caused them to be startled and frightened (v 37)?
3. Jesus asked them why doubts were rising in their minds (v 38) – what doubts do you think Jesus was referring to?
4. Jesus invites them to look at his hands and feet (v 39) – why do you think Jesus referred specifically to these two body parts, and why would this be proof that he wasn't a ghost/spirit?
5. How might joy and amazement have caused them to still not believe (v 41)?
6. Why would eating broiled fish have been proof of Jesus' resurrection (v 41b-43)?
7. Why is it important that Jesus had been physically raised from the dead rather than just spiritually raised? What difference does it make?
8. Jesus told them that *he* is the fulfilment of what was written in the Old Testament (v 44) and he specified some particular things that were written about him in the OT in v 46-47. So, can you think of any examples that Jesus might have had in mind from the Law of Moses (the Torah), the Prophets, and the Psalms?
9. Back in v 32, on the road to Emmaus, the two disciples said that Jesus had '*opened the Scriptures*' to them. Here, in v 45, Jesus '*opened their minds so they could*

*understand the Scriptures'*. What can we learn about how we come to understand the Bible by this **double-opening** in v 32 and v 45?

10. What promise do you think Jesus is referring to in v 49 and why was it so important that they wait in Jerusalem before going out to proclaim the good news?

#### Application:

1. The disciples doubted Jesus' physical resurrection, even when he was standing before their eyes. Why might people doubt the resurrection today and what might convince them that it is true?
2. What difference would it make to your life and faith if Jesus hadn't physically rose from the dead – see 1 Corinthians 15 v 12-19.
3. How difference should the double-opening referred to in Q9 above make to the way we read/study the Bible?
4. What difference does being *clothed with power from on high* make to our witness for Jesus in the world?

#### Pray:

- That God would dispel any doubts we have about Jesus.
- That God would open the Scriptures to our minds and our minds to the Scriptures.
- That we would be filled with the Holy Spirit to empower our witness in the world.