

Close Encounters Part 1 – On The Road

Sunday 7 April 2024

How can you destroy Christianity? Explain away Jesus' resurrection.

For instance, you could say the overemotional women at the tomb were deluded. Or argue that they went to the wrong tomb. You might insist that the resurrection was spiritual not physical, or that the disciples had hallucinations.

From that first Easter till now the enemies of the Church have tried to get rid of the historical facts (Matthew 28:11-15). None has succeeded.

1. Which do you like to celebrate more—Christmas or Easter? Why?
2. **READ Luke 24:13-35** for the longest resurrection encounter preserved for us. What kind of people do the two disciples appear to be?
3. What strikes you about the stranger's dialog with them?
4. We can sympathize with the disciples' struggle between despair and hope. In his rebuke Jesus identifies the cause of their despair—reluctance to believe the Scriptures about the Messiah (Luke 24:25). Share an experience of how the Scriptures moved you from despair to new hope.

5. For three or so years Jesus has been preparing his disciples to carry on his world mission. He climaxes this mission training by stressing systematic, in-depth Bible understanding (Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-47). In what ways can you testify to this importance?
6. What a message we have! The Lord Jesus has come to bring new hope and new joy to the world! How can you (and the church or Life Group) take Jesus' message of new hope and new joy to your community?

LifeGuide Bible Studies - Luke: New Hope, New Joy.