

INTRODUCTION 引言

Jesus was risen from the dead. Hallelujah! Salvation work was completed. End of story. You can be dismissed earlier for lunch. Not so fast! I am sure you come here this morning hoping to hear an Easter message. Let me begin with the bad news: even some Christians do not believe that Jesus came back to life. Are you one of them? What does it take for you to believe in something? Nowadays, many people trust what they read and see on social media completely. They think: “I got it from my friends. They won’t lie to me.” But do you know from where they received the stories? Some people believe in false advertisements they see on the internet. Name-brand products for a fraction of the price are really super deals. But conventional wisdom tells us that it is possibly not true if it sounds too good to be true. Other people say seeing is believing. But they agree that magic shows are only entertainment. A person cannot be sawed into two pieces and then put back together. How can we believe that the resurrection of Jesus is a fact? In our passage today, we see different reactions when people were told that Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus still had some unfinished business before He returned to heaven. He must change those doubters to believers. Jesus is doing the same thing in you and me. He helps us know the truth so that we are motivated to share the truth. Faithful believers of Jesus must also be faithful witnesses of His resurrection.

EXPLANATION 解釋

We find testimonies from three groups of witnesses in Luke 24: a few women who visited the tomb where Jesus was laid, two believers who met the resurrected Jesus on their way to Emmaus and a group of followers meeting in a room. Instead of reading this long chapter, we will study the passage in a different way. We will do some role-plays and ask one representative from each group to share their first-person experience. First, we have Mary.

1. Mary’s Testimony 馬利亞的見證

“That Sunday morning a few sisters and I got up early. The Sabbath ended when we saw sunrise. We were free to leave home according to the Law. We carried some spices we bought earlier and headed to the tomb where they buried Jesus. We just wanted to pay tribute to the Lord for one last time. We were very surprised to see that the tomb stone was rolled away. Who did that? We were even more startled to notice that the Lord’s body was missing. We tried to make sense of the scene. Suddenly two angels showed up. Their body glowed with bright light. We were scared by that. They calmed us by saying: ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’ Then we recalled what the Lord told us a while back. Did that really happen? Did He actually come back to life? We could not wait to tell the disciples this exciting news. Jesus is alive! However, they did not believe in our words.

Only Peter and John went to the tomb and confirmed what we saw. But they did not see any angel. However, they noticed that the linen cloth that was used to wrap Jesus' body was left inside the tomb. Did He just wake up, unwrap Himself and walk away?"

Those ladies believed what the angels told them, even though they did not see the resurrected Jesus. They had yet to fully understand the meaning of the series of events. But what they saw and the angels' words were consistent with what Jesus said before. Jesus would be mistreated, nailed to the cross but rose from the dead. Jesus had never told a lie. Therefore, since Jesus had suffered and died, then He must come back to life as He said earlier. The women accepted the angels' message with a simple faith. But the disciples rejected their accounts. At that time women were of a lower social status and so their testimonies were considered not trustworthy. Although Peter and John were skeptical, they went to the tomb to check it for themselves. Jesus once said that we cannot enter God's Kingdom unless we receive Him with a child-like faith. A child will listen to his parents because of their relationship of love. But he will be cautious about the words of a stranger. Likewise, our relationship with Jesus will cause us to trust His words. Gospel seekers will naturally have doubts about the Bible. We should encourage them to at least stay objective. Read the Bible for themselves and ask relevant questions. Getting answers will lead them closer to the truth. Jesus said that those who seek Him will find Him. Even Christians have to increase in their knowledge of God's Word. Our faith will grow as we continue to learn the Bible. After hearing from Mary, Cleopas will now share his testimony.

2. Cleopas' Testimony 革流巴的見證

"I was on my way home to Emmaus with another brother. We were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. A stranger popped up from nowhere. He noticed that we were sad, and so he asked what was going on. He must be new in town. How could he miss such a giant news? I told him Jesus is a great teacher and prophet everyone loves. We thought that He was the Messiah God sent to revive Israel. But the religious leaders conspired with the Romans to nail him to the cross! Our hope seemed to be dashed, but some ladies reported that Jesus' body was missing. Angels appeared and told them that Jesus was still alive. As we were still talking, the traveler interrupted and even scolded us, saying: **'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?'** Then he explained from the Scriptures that God's plans must be fulfilled. Since it was getting late, we urged him to stay overnight with us. At dinner, he prayed for the meal, broke bread and passed it to us. Suddenly, we realized that He was the Lord! Then He vanished instantly. We said to each other: **'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?'** Jesus is alive! We wasted no time and rushed back to Jerusalem to inform the disciples. It turned out that the Lord revealed Himself to Peter also.

Those two brothers might have seen Jesus' death on the cross. They also had knowledge about the Old Testament prophecies. But they could not connect the two matters. Jesus helped them make sense of the full story. He did not only die in wicked people's hands. He

die to fulfill God's salvation plan. Today, we will meet people who are slow to believe like the two believers. They heard of the story of the cross. We need to tell them the spiritual significance behind a historical tragedy. Jesus did not die for a religious idea. He died for us. We may offend people by calling them sinners. We do not judge anyone. We are just declaring God's verdict on all of us! If people do not admit that they are sinners, then from what do they want Jesus to save them? Perhaps you have come across a movement called "He gets us." There are TV commercials about it. I looked up its website to know more. It highlights that Jesus accepts people from all conditions such as the homeless, immigrants, broken-hearted, rejection, etc. Jesus welcomes everyone because He understands our hardship. He suffered from anxiety, loneliness and torment too. Are we missing something here? There is no mentioning that Jesus is God and humans are sinners. It says Jesus' death is to spread a message of love. It does not say He rose from the dead. All that effort may reach out to people who are hurting. However, it only promotes an emotional and a social gospel. Not the true gospel based on the Bible. Jesus does not save us from a cruel society but from a sinful world. He does not only rebuild our dignity as humans. He restores our status as God's children. The genuine gospel attacks our pride. Most people admit that they are basically good, so good that they do not need God. But we will not need a Savior until we admit that we are hopeless sinners. We will cry out for God's grace only when we know that we deserve eternal condemnation. After we heard from Mary and Cleopas, now James will share his story.

3. James' Testimony 雅各的見證

"We were in a house listening to the report from Cleopas and another brother. They said they met the resurrected Lord. While they were still talking, Jesus showed up! We're terrified and didn't know how to react. The Lord assured us that He was not a ghost. He asked us to touch the wounds on His hands and feet caused by nails. He even ate a piece of fish we prepared. It was really Him. Jesus is alive! He then reviewed what the Scriptures prophesy about Him. His suffering, death and resurrection all came true. Jesus is the promised Messiah. He comes to save us from sins but not from the Romans. And that blessing is not just for us Jews, but also for people in other nations. Jesus told us to spread the good news. However, He asked us to wait in Jerusalem until the arrival of the Holy Spirit. We remember He told us that the Father will send us a Comforter. Now we finally understand what it is all about. Jesus also warned us that we will face persecution and suffering. But the Holy Spirit will give us instructions, strength and boldness to witness for Jesus. Forty days later, the Lord ascended to heaven right before our eyes, and since then we frequently meet in the temple to worship God."

Those believers' witness tells us something about Jesus' resurrected body. The disciples could touch His body. Jesus could eat too. It was not an image but a real body. However, Jesus could also vanish in an instant. The gospel of John records that Jesus visited His disciples in a room behind a closed door. It implies that Jesus could pass through a wall. Jesus' resurrected body was similar to but yet different from His previous physical body. That tells us something how believers' glorious body will be like in heaven. Jesus came to

His believers to prove that He had risen. But He had some other goals in mind. Do you notice that Jesus did not meet any non-believers after His resurrection? He did not go to the Jewish religious leaders or the Romans because they had rejected Him outright. Jesus came to His believers to restore their faith. They ran for their life when Jesus was arrested. They did not want to get into trouble. Jesus did not despise them because of their fear. He would use them as gospel witnesses. Jesus wanted them to know that hope was not lost. Even the death of the Messiah was part of God's plan. God can turn something negative into positive. If God could use some cowards who denied Jesus, God can use any of us. We all suffer from some kind of brokenness. We sin against God in various ways. In the past you did not know God and even hated Him. You mocked at Christians, thinking that they believe in some silly myths. You may also be victims of other people's sins too. Perhaps someone lied to you or took advantage of you. But God shows us grace and He redeems us. Now it is your turn to help others know Jesus. Tell them how ignorant you were before and how Jesus saved you. God can use your brokenness in the past for His glory.

CONCLUSION 結論

Faithful believers of Jesus must also be faithful witnesses of His resurrection. Jesus restored the faith of three groups of people. Notice that God used the same approach in each instance. God sent angels to remind the women what Jesus had told them earlier. The sisters then remembered His words. Jesus quoted the Old Testament for Cleopas and his companion. The Bible confirms what happened to Jesus. The Lord opened their eyes, then they realized that Jesus was right in front of them. Jesus also opened the minds of the disciples in that room. He explained that the prophecies about Him must be fulfilled. In all three cases, Jesus verified that God's Word is true. Our faith must also be grounded in the Bible. However, we need help from God before we can understand the truth. Whether it is the eye issue or a heart issue, it is the same spiritual problem. We cannot understand the Bible unless God revives our souls. Satan obscures people from knowing God. They focus on money, materials and pleasure instead. Those are the things they can see. They accumulate things of this life but have no interest and time to think about eternity. God shows us mercy by shining light into our dark corners to enable us to know the truth. He takes the initiative to welcome us. Christians are saved not because they are smarter. It is all because of God's grace that gives them a new life. Therefore, besides praying for wisdom about what to say when we share the gospel, we should also pray that God will shed His light to gospel seekers. Jesus saved us because He also wants to use us as His messengers. We receive the same mission as the people in this passage to take the gospel to other places. Let me suggest you a simple way to remind you of Jesus' command. Whenever you see a BMW car on the road, think of those three letters. In this case, BMW stands for be my witness. We are witnesses for Jesus. His resurrection power in you changes your life and charges you up to tell people about Him.

耶穌已經從死裡復活了。哈利路亞！救恩工作已經完成了。大團圓結局。大家可以早點散會去吃午飯。等一下！我相信你今天早上來這裡是希望聽到復活節的信息。讓我先講壞消息：連一些基督徒也不相信耶穌復活了。你是其中之一嗎？你需要什麼證據才會相信一件事情？現今有許多人完全相信他們在社交媒體上讀到和看到的消息。他們想：「這是朋友轉發給我的。他們不會騙我的。」但是你知道他們是從哪裡得到那些故事的嗎？有些人相信他們在網路上看到的假廣告。名牌產品那麼便宜真的是超級優惠。但傳統智慧告訴我們，如果聽起來令人難以置信，那可能就不是真的。也有人說眼見為實。但他們同意魔術表演只是娛樂。一個人不能被鋸成兩截，然後再合起來。我們怎樣才能相信耶穌的復活是事實呢？在今天的經文中，我們看到一些人被告知耶穌從死裡復活時，他們有不同的反應。耶穌在回到天堂之前還有一些未完成的事情。祂必須把那些懷疑者變成真信徒。耶穌在你我身上也在做同樣的事。祂幫助我們了解真理，使我們有動力去分享真理。耶穌的忠實信徒也必須是祂復活的忠實見證人。

EXPLANATION 解釋

我們在路加福音 24 章中找到了三批見證人的故事：有幾位婦人到安放耶穌的墳墓，兩名信徒在前往以馬忤斯的路上遇到了復活的耶穌，還有一群信徒在一個房間裡聚會。與其朗讀這一章比較長的經文，我們用一個不同的方式來思考這段信息。我們將進行一些角色扮演，從每組人中找一位代表來分享他們的親身經歷。首先是馬利亞。

1. Mary's Testimony 馬利亞的見證

那個星期天早上，我和幾個姐妹起得很早。當我們看到日出時，就知道安息日結束了。根據法律，我們可以自由離開家。我們帶著之前買的一些香料，前往他們埋葬耶穌的墳墓。我們只是想最後一次向主致敬。我們很驚訝地看到墓石被滾開了。是誰把它挪開的？我們更驚訝地發現主的身體不見了。我們搞不清楚發生了什麼事。突然出現了兩個天使。他們的身體散發出耀眼的光芒。我們被嚇到了。他們安撫我們說：「『為什麼在死人中找活人呢？他不在這裡，已經復活了。當記念他還在加利利的時候怎樣告訴你們，說：『人子必須被交在罪人手裡，釘在十字架上，第三日復活。』』」然後我們便想起主之前告訴我們的事。真的發生了嗎？祂真的復活了嗎？我們迫不及待地想告訴門徒這個令人

振奮的消息。耶穌還活著！然而，他們不相信我們的話。只有彼得和約翰跑去墳墓，證實了我們所看到的。但他們沒有看到任何天使。然而，他們注意到用來包裹耶穌身體的麻布被留在了墳墓裡。難道祂醒過來，解開麻布然後便離開？」

那些婦人相信天使告訴她們的話，縱然她們沒有看到復活的耶穌。她們還沒有完全理解這一連串事件的意義。但她們所看到的情形和天使的話與耶穌之前所說的一致。耶穌會受害，被釘在十字架上，但從死裡復活。耶穌從來沒有撒過謊。所以，既然耶穌已經受苦死了，那麼祂就必然如祂之前所說的那樣復活。婦女們以單純的信心接受了天使的信息。但門徒拒絕了她們的見證。那時婦女的社會地位較低，因此她們的見證被認為不可信。雖然彼得和約翰持懷疑態度，但他們還是親自去墳墓看看。耶穌曾經說過，除非我們以孩子般的信心接受祂，否則我們無法進入神的國。孩子會因為愛的關係而相信父母的話。但他會對陌生人的話保持謹慎。同樣，我們與耶穌的關係會使我們相信祂的話。福音朋友自然會對聖經產生懷疑。我們應該鼓勵他們至少保持客觀。閱讀聖經並提出相關的問題。得到答案後會使他們更接近真理。耶穌說，尋找祂的人必然能尋見。甚至基督徒也必須增加對神話語的認識。當我們不住地學習聖經時，我們的信心就會增長。聽完馬利亞的故事後，現在革流巴會分享他的見證。

2. Cleopas' Testimony 革流巴的見證

我當時正和另一位弟兄在回以馬忤斯的路上。我們在耶路撒冷過逾越節。不知從哪裡冒出一個陌生人。他注意到我們很難過，所以他問發生了什麼事。他一定是新來的。他怎麼會錯過這麼大的新聞？我告訴他耶穌是受人愛戴的偉大老師和先知。我們認為他是神派來復興以色列的彌賽亞。但宗教領袖與羅馬人密謀將他釘在十字架上！我們的希望似乎破滅了，但一些婦女說耶穌的身體不見了。天使顯現並告訴她們耶穌還活著。當我們還在說話的時候，那個旅客打斷了我們，他甚至責備我們，說：「無知的人哪，先知所說的一切話，你們的心信得太遲鈍了。基督這樣受害，又進入他的榮耀，豈不是應當的嗎？」然後他從聖經解釋說，神的計劃必須實現。由於天色已晚，我們催促他在我們家過夜。吃晚餐時，他作了謝飯的禱告，然後擘餅並遞給我們。突然間，我們認出原來祂就是主！然後祂瞬間消失了。我們彼此說：「在路上，他和我們說話，給我們講解聖經的時候，我們的心豈不是火熱的嗎？」耶穌還活著！於是我們趕緊回耶路撒冷通知門徒，然後我們才曉得原來主也向彼得顯現了。

那兩位弟兄可能目擊耶穌死在十字架上，他們也知道舊約的預言。但他們無法將兩件事聯繫起來。耶穌幫助他們理解整個故事。祂不僅死在惡人的手中，祂

是為完成神的救贖計劃而死。今天，我們會遇到像這兩個信徒一樣信心遲鈍的人。他們聽過十字架的故事。我們需要告訴他們這個歷史悲劇背後的屬靈意義。耶穌不是為一個宗教理念而死，祂是為我們而死。當我們稱呼別人是罪人時，我們很可能會冒犯對方。我們不是在評判任何人，我們只是在宣告神對我們所有人的罪名！如果人們不承認自己是罪人，那麼他們期望耶穌從什麼光景中拯救他們？也許你接觸過一個叫做「祂明白我們」的運動。你在電視上可以看到它的廣告。我到它的網站以了解更多信息。它強調耶穌接受來自各種背景的人，例如無家可歸者、移民、心靈破碎、被拒絕的人等。耶穌歡迎每一個人，因為祂明白我們的困難。祂也曾飽受焦慮、孤單和折磨。有什麼信息遺漏了嗎？它沒有提到耶穌是神，人是罪人。它說耶穌的死是為了傳播愛的信息。它沒有說祂從死裡復活。這些努力可能會令受傷的人產生共鳴。然而，它只是推廣情感和社會福音，而不是基於聖經的真正福音。耶穌不是要把我們從殘酷的社會中拯救出來，而是從一個罪惡的世界中拯救出來。祂不僅重建了我們作為人的尊嚴，祂更恢復了我們作為神兒女的地位。真正的福音針對我們的驕傲。大多數人承認自己很好，好到不需要神。但是若我們不承認自己是絕望的罪人，我們不會覺得需要救主。只有當我們知道我們配得到永恆的定罪時，我們才會呼求神的恩典。在我們聽到馬利亞和革流巴的分享後，現在雅各要講他的故事。

3. James' Testimony 雅各的見證

我們在一所房子裡聽革流巴和另一個弟兄的報告。他們說他們遇見了復活的主。他們還在說話的時候，耶穌出現了！我們很害怕，不知道如何反應。主向我們保證祂不是鬼魂。祂邀請我們摸祂手和腳上的釘痕。祂甚至吃了一片我們準備的魚。真的是祂。耶穌還活著！然後祂回顧了聖經中對祂的預言。祂的受苦、死亡和復活都應驗了。耶穌是應許的彌賽亞。祂來拯救我們脫離罪，而不是脫離羅馬人。這個祝福不僅是給我們猶太人的，也是給萬國的人的。耶穌告訴我們要去傳揚這個好消息。然而，祂要我們在耶路撒冷等待聖靈的降臨。我們記得祂曾經說過，天父會賜一位保惠師給我們。現在我們終於明白這一切是怎麼回事了。耶穌也警告我們，我們將會面對迫害和苦難。但聖靈會給我們指引、力量和勇氣，為耶穌作見證。四十天後，主就在我們眼前升天了。從那之後，我們經常在聖殿聚會敬拜神。

那些信徒的見證告訴我們一些關於耶穌復活身體的事情。門徒可以觸摸祂的身體，耶穌也可以吃東西。那不是一個影像，而是個真實的身體。然而，耶穌也可以在瞬間消失。約翰福音記載耶穌在一個關閉的房間裡出現在門徒面前。它暗示耶穌可以穿過牆壁。耶穌復活的身體與祂之前的身體相似，但又不完全一

樣。這告訴我們信徒榮耀的身體在天上的樣子。耶穌來到信徒面前證明祂已經復活了。但祂心中還有一些其他目的。你注意到耶穌復活後沒有顯現予不信的人嗎？祂沒有去找猶太宗教領袖或羅馬人，因為他們已經完全否定了祂。耶穌來到祂的信徒身邊，以恢復他們的信心。耶穌被捕時，他們只顧逃命，他們不想惹麻煩。耶穌並沒有因為他們的恐懼而輕視他們。祂打算使用他們作為福音的見證人。耶穌要他們知道盼望並沒有幻滅。連彌賽亞的死也是神計劃的一部分。神可以把消極的東西變成積極的。如果神可以使用一些否認耶穌的懦夫，那麼神可以使用我們任何人。我們都遭受過某種破碎。我們以各種方式得罪神。過去你不認識神，甚至恨祂。你嘲笑基督徒，認為他們相信一些愚蠢的神話。你也可能是別人犯罪的受害者。也許有人對你撒謊或佔你便宜。但是神向我們施予恩典並救贖了我們。現在輪到你幫助別人認識耶穌了。告訴他們你以前多麼無知，以及耶穌如何拯救你。神可以使用你過去的破碎來榮耀祂。

CONCLUSION 結論

耶穌的忠實信徒也必須是祂復活的忠實見證人。耶穌恢復了第三批人的信心。請注意，神在每種情況下都使用了相同的方法。神派天使提醒婦女們耶穌早先告訴她們的事。於是她們便想起主的話。耶穌為革流巴和他的同伴引用了舊約，驗證了發生在耶穌身上的事。主打開了他們的眼睛，然後他們才發現耶穌就在他們面前。耶穌也打開了那個房間裡門徒的心。祂解釋說，關於祂的預言必須應驗。在這三種情況下，耶穌都證明了神的話是真實的。我們的信心也必須以聖經為基礎。然而，我們需要神的幫助才能明白真理。不管是眼睛的問題還是心的問題，都是同一個屬靈的問題。除非神使我們的靈魂甦醒，否則我們無法理解聖經。撒旦攔阻人認識神。因此，他們專注於金錢、物質和享樂。那些是他們看得見的東西。他們積累今生的東西，卻沒有興趣和時間去思考永恆。神把光照亮我們黑暗的角落，使我們能夠認識真理，從而向我們施以憐憫。祂主動歡迎我們。基督徒得救不是因為他們比較聰明。一切都是神的恩典，祂給他們新生命。因此，我們在分享福音時除了祈求智慧，也必須祈求神將祂的光照亮福音朋友。耶穌拯救了我們，因為祂要使用我們成為祂的使者。我們接受了這段經文中的人相同的使命，將福音帶到其他地方。讓我建議你一個簡單的方法來提醒你耶穌的命令。每當你在路上看到一輛寶馬汽車時，想想 **BMW** 這三個字母。在這裡，**BMW** 代表「成為我的見證人」。我們都是耶穌的見證人。祂復活的大能改變了你的生命，並激勵你向別人傳講耶穌。