



# APPNOTES

**Date:** April 22-26, 2019

**Series:** Come Alive

**Luke 24:1-10** On the third day after the crucifixion, a group of women arrived at Jesus' tomb with spices. At that time, it was customary to anoint a dead body with spices to show honor and respect. It was also a necessary step in the finalization of hygienic burial processes. When the mourners arrived, they were distraught and confused as they searched for the body of Jesus. As they bowed in fear to the angels that appeared, they heard the words and realized Jesus was risen! There are times we get so caught up in our pain, we can't see the truth before us. As we mourn, our logic overpowers our faith and we search for comfort in all the wrong places. Here God shows us that He is with us in our darkest moments. No matter how final our sorrow feels, God awakens us from our grief to move forward!

**Mark 16:9-11** Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' most loyal followers. Jesus found her possessed by demons and enveloped in a sinful lifestyle. Through His love and forgiveness, she blossomed into a devoted and steadfast disciple. She was present with Jesus through His travels as He preached the Word of God. She was also witness to His crucifixion and burial. In this passage, we learn that Mary was the first witness to His resurrection. How awesome that Jesus chose Mary as the first witness - the worst of sinners transformed by Christ's mercy who became a cherished believer. Jesus knew she would believe He was risen and trusted her to go tell the others. And she did. We, too, are sinners saved by grace and chosen witnesses. No matter how deeply we lapse and become mired in sin, God awakens us from our transgressions and calls us to share His news!

**John 20:24-29** Thomas was one of Jesus' 12 Apostles. He is most remembered for doubting the resurrection because he had no physical proof and thus was dubbed, "Doubting Thomas". Even though Thomas had a moment of weakness in his faith, he was still a loyal follower of Jesus. It was Thomas who encouraged the other apostles to go Bethany with Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead. When the others feared for Jesus' safety, Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him". No matter how strong in Christ we are, we all go through stages in our lives where we question God. Our faith is tested through trials and worldly views, twisted in a whirlwind of opposition. In this passage, Jesus shows us that He walks us through our doubts and proves His realness. No matter how much we lose faith, God awakens us from our doubt to His truth!

**John 20:19-23** The days following Jesus' crucifixion were very stressful for His disciples. Not only were they confused about the events that took place, they also feared for their lives. As they gathered behind locked doors, Jesus appeared to them and spoke, "Peace be with you." In that moment, all their anxiety and confusion disappeared. They felt overjoyed that their eyes were finally opened and they no longer needed to be afraid. Jesus then commissioned His students to become the teachers. He charged them with proclaiming the gospel to the world. As Christians, we too are called to live a life that imitates our Master and communicates His message of salvation. No matter what level of trepidation we experience, God awakens us from our fear to His peace!

**Luke 24:13-35** After Jesus died on the cross, His followers were very confused. After years of studying under His teaching had they missed the message? How could the King who came to redeem their people die? As the two walked the road with the risen Lord, they were blinded to His true identity. They did not see past their own bewilderment. But still in their grief, they extended kindness to a stranger. As Jesus broke bread, gave thanks and gave it to them, He revealed Himself. It was then they finally saw the truth. They understood that Jesus' mission of salvation was far greater than any Earthly kingdom. His body was broken as a sacrifice for all. There are times we may not recognize Christ with us. But, no matter how oblivious we are to His will, God awakens us from our ignorance!

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