

Luke 24:33-49
When Everything Changed
April 12, 2026
Fifth Reformed Church
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- Stages of experience in wrestling with the resurrection of Jesus

Stage 1 – Seems Like Nonsense

- Luke 24:11
- “That’s crazy! People can’t actually believe that... can they?”

Stage 2 – Startled and Frightened

- Luke 24:36-37
- Fear is a significant step in _____ with the claim that Jesus rose from the dead.
- Reasons an initial encounter with Jesus begins with fear:
 1. We _____ ourselves.
 2. The _____ for our lives hit hard.

Stage 3 – Rising Doubts

- Luke 24:38-40
- Jesus invites that small group to _____ from an emotional reaction to an intellectual consideration.
- Reasons for the rising doubts:
 1. We need _____ and clear _____ to accept a new, very significant reality.
 2. We have _____ blindness.
 3. There is _____ to faith in Jesus.

Stage 4 – Joy and Amazement as Barrier to Faith

- Luke 24:41-44

- What would it feel like if everything you never knew you hoped for came true?
- Brain science tells us that as emotional reactivity _____ (either positively or negatively) our capacity for rational thought decreases.
- You can feel the graciousness of Jesus’ approach. He’s _____ with them to help them understand the reality of his resurrection.

Stage 5 – Faith Seeking Understanding

- Luke 24:45-49
- “I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order that I may understand.”
- In our journey with God, faith comes _____ full understanding.
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Understanding the reality of Jesus’ resurrection is when everything changed for those first disciples. And it’s when everything changes for us, too.

Reflection Questions

1. Do the stages outlined in the sermon resonate with you? If so, how?
2. Describe a personal experience that corresponds to one of the stages.
3. Have you experienced the reality of “faith seeking understanding”? How has your faith helped you to understand something in this world with greater clarity?
4. What stood out most to you in the scripture or sermon?
5. How is God getting your attention?
6. What might God be saying to you?
7. What is your next step of faith based on what you’re hearing?