

## Early Reactions to the Apostles' Message

**This week** – From doubts to true assurance after the events of the resurrection and Pentecost

**Peter said of The Lord Jesus Christ,**

**“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved” Acts 4v12.**

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 24v13-29 (Mourning the death of Christ)	
Monday	Luke 2v30-53 (Christ explains why He died)	
Tuesday	Acts v1-11 (The healing of the lame man)	
Wednesday	Acts 3v12-26 (Christ is given all the praise)	
Thursday	Acts 4v1-22 (Opposition to the Gospel)	
Friday	Acts 4v23-37 (Knowing the Lord's power)	
Saturday	Acts 5v1-16 (The Gospel spreads!)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** Were we once keen for the Lord but when faced with bewildering situations began to experience doubts, fears, and unhappiness?

Many people, the writer included, enjoyed a close walk with the Lord on first being saved; where speaking of the Lord, the reading of His word and prayer came readily, along with a keen sense of devotion to the Lord, and witnessing to all. Then a coldness and emptiness came in causing prayer time, Bible reading and putting the Lord first to be abandoned and replaced by old sins. **Doubts, fears and unhappiness quickly set in.**

The disciples only knew joy and peace again when they saw the risen Lord Who answered all their queries and problems. We too will only have assurance of salvation restored once we repent of our backsliding, and return to the things that are essential to keeping our soul alive to God - which are: prayer, regular reading of God's Word, attending services of a sound evangelical church, serving the Lord with a desire to witness to all around of the love that God has shown us, and having Christians as our best friends.

**A hymn showing the dedication of a true follower of the Lord: (460)**

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| 1. O Jesus I have promised<br>To serve Thee to the end;<br>Be Thou for ever near me,<br>My Master and my Friend:<br>I shall not fear the battle<br>If Thou are by my side,<br>Nor wander from the pathway<br>If Thou wilt be my Guide. | 2. O, let me feel Thee near me<br>The world is ever near<br>I see the sights that dazzle,<br>The tempting sounds I hear;<br>My foes are ever near me,<br>Around me and within;<br>But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer<br>And shield my soul from sin | 5. O, let me see Thy footmarks<br>And in them plant mine own;<br>My hope to follow duly<br>Is in Thy strength alone:<br>O, guide me, call me, draw me,<br>Uphold me to the end;<br>And then in Heaven receive me,<br>My Saviour and my Friend! |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

## The Followers of Jesus - Assured and Empowered.

**The disciples' doubts were answered and turned to blessings.**

- **They left all to follow Jesus** when He called them to 'Follow Me'. They trusted Him and knew He was worth leaving everything for. They witnessed the Lord's miracles, teaching and character which convinced them that He was the Messiah as foretold in the Old Testament; **BUT** they misunderstood His mission.
- **They knew days of fear and doubt** as they had the mistaken belief that the Lord was to be an **earthly King** over Israel. They disputed his teaching about how He would suffer and die and abandoned Him when He was arrested. They saw Him die on the Cross and wondered what had gone wrong.
- **They experienced days of joy and anticipation** when the risen Saviour came to them and explained that He was their **spiritual Saviour**, Who had come to save people, such as them, from their sin! He gave them the challenging mission that they were to take the good news of salvation, (The Gospel), into the whole world! See Matthew 28v19,20. They wondered how 11 poor, uneducated, working men could do such a thing until the Lord explained that ....
- **They would know the help of the Holy Spirit** which would enable these poor, uneducated, working men to preach, without fear, to crowds of people and in different languages so as to be able to be understood by all!
- **They did miracles in Christ's name** which authenticated them as His true people and enabled them to point onlookers to the Saviour who had died for their sin (Acts 3.19)
- **They were bitterly opposed** by the religious leaders who wanted both Christ and His message to be dead and finished. Yet Peter, with the Holy Spirit's help, became bolder, accusing the people of being responsible for Christ's death.
- **They were put in prison** yet the Lord through miraculous means allowed them to be released, boldly resuming their outdoor preaching of the Gospel again!
- **Their message went into all the world** as the Lord Jesus promised it would! What seemed impossible to these 11 men was possible with Almighty God.

**God's blessings are not just for the early disciples.**

***This same God is able and willing to convert and use us today. We need to: -***

1. **Obey His call to 'Follow Me'**: repentance for sin, obedience, turning away from this world
2. **Trust in the Saviour**: believe His Word and promises, and He will give you assurance by His Spirit
3. **Serve on the Lord's side**: with a true purpose, Christ as Guide and Helper, whatever happens

***“Then they that gladly received His word were baptised ... they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul ... and all that believed were together, and had all things common ... continuing daily with one accord ... Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. ”, Acts 2v41-47.***