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Sermon Notes – "Can You Believe It?"
(May 8, 2022)

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Sermon Texts: Act 4:5-12 & Luke 24:36-43

Introduction: This is the **4ᵗʰ week in a row** that we have discussed Luke 24 … the **first Easter Sunday** … the day of Jesus' resurrection. *Why spend so much time on this day?* **Because this day changes everything!**

I. A Busy Day – *Think of all that has happened this 1ˢᵗ Easter Sunday.*

- Women disciples find **the tomb empty** early in the morning. (Luke 24:1-8)
- Women return home, **tell the other disciples,** who can't believe it. (Luke 24:9-11)
- Simon Peter **runs to the tomb**, **finds it empty** as the women said. (Luke 24:12)
- Jesus r**eveals himself to two disciples** on the way to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-30)
- Jesus **reveals himself to Simon Peter.** (Luke 24:34)
- The disciples gather, discuss **what they've experienced**. (Luke 24:33-35)

II. Jesus Grand Entrance, Parts I & II (Luke 24:36-49)

- Jesus' "stood among them" – the **climax** of his resurrection day.
- He has two goals for this visit.
- **Goal 1** – Convince the disciples his **resurrection** is **real.** (Luke 24:36-43)
- **Goal 2 –** Explain (again) **why** he had to **suffer, die** & **rise.** (Luke 24:44-49)

III. Today – Let's Talk Part I – *Was Jesus Resurrection Real?* (Luke 24:36-43)

- Disciples reaction to seeing Jesus – **surprise, fear**, **amazement**, **doubt/unbelief**
- Jesus response:

  1) **Words of assurance –** *"Peace be with you; It is I myself"* (vs. 36, 39)
  2) **Offers proof he is not "just a ghost" –** *"Touch me and see …"* (vs. 39)
  3) **Does "human" things –** *"Do you have anything here to eat?"* (vs. 41-42)

Summary: Jesus' resurrection **only conquers the power of death**, once for all, if Jesus' **whole person** – body and soul – **is raised from the dead**. An apparition or specter would have been **too abstract** and **too surreal** to **create belief** in resurrection and eternal life.

Faith Challenge – *Can **YOU** believe it? Can **YOU** believe in the resurrection?*