

May 9, 2024

## Open our Eyes

[Luke 24:44-53](#)

*44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,*

Even with all of the conversations Jesus shared with his disciples over their three years together, they still didn't totally understand what Jesus was all about. Their actions didn't always run parallel with their words.

Often they failed to see the possibilities ahead of them, and, in many ways, it wasn't until His death and resurrection that they truly understood and put into practice Jesus' teachings.

This reminds me of when I was a new rookie firefighter back in 1985. I had taken many hours of training to get to that point, listened to numerous stories from seasoned smoke chasers about their experiences, ran through all of the practice drills with simulated fire scenes, and felt that I was totally ready to go inside a burning building.

My first structure fire call was in the dead of winter. It was cold and icy out. A perfect time, we were taught, for fires to start in homes.

After the alarm sounded, I ran to put on my gear, hooked up my breathing apparatus, made sure my mask was sealed tight, and jumped on the truck. I was pumped, excited, nervous to be a part of something this important, but, once on-scene, all of my training and practice did not totally prepare me for the real thing.

It was different to feel the heat, the confining feeling of the breathing mask, to try to see in the darkness. As I crawled toward the light, the bright flames came into view. I froze. I couldn't move. I was scared.

I felt the excitement, the anticipation, the desire, but I didn't totally understand the risks before me. I didn't understand until "my eyes were opened," so to speak, in real time, of risk, danger, the human cost, and, of course, the fire. The experience was quite humbling. I realized I still had a lot to learn, but I built on it over the next 20 years. The disciples did the same.

As we navigate through this Easter season, allow Jesus to open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to the real fires around us – the injustices, the hurting, those who do not see the light of our faith and the hope that we have in Him, those who need our resurrected Savior. Let us continue to embrace the ministries each of us have in our connection and our communities.

*Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, as we celebrate the Risen Savior this Easter season, open our eyes that we might see our true possibilities and potentials. In your name we pray. Amen.*

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