***Luke 24:44-48 Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48And you are witnesses of these things.***

Imagine with me the weekend that the disciples have had. Resurrection Day. Jesus has already appeared multiple times. The authorities are scrambling, guards are being paid to lie, word is spreading – He’s alive! Our hopes were crushed and now our Hope lives! He was dead and now He is Risen. Imagine the confusion, the emotion, as people come and report. How very frightening and very exciting.

 Imagine we’re with the disciples. Cleopas has just arrived and is excitedly telling how Christ appeared on the road to Emmaus, sat at a table, then vanished. The doors are shut and there, appearing before us is Jesus! We’re terrified, frightened, doubts arise! Jesus speaks Peace upon us all – He did it 1989 years ago… and He does the same today for those who trust Him.

 The Truth of Jesus didn’t start in a manger, with a star high above. It didn’t start in Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* No. John 1:1 tells us how it started *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* The Truth of Jesus has always been, currently is, and will always be. Our focus scripture verse 44 *Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”* From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, be it prophecy, psalm, or promise, the Bible tells the story of Jesus. It’s so clear it cannot be ignored. 40 God-inspired authors – farmers, fishermen, scholars, shepherds, kings, and warriors - over 1500 years. Jesus confirms – it points to Him – the Fall, the Cross, Redemption and Renewal of our relationship with God. He brings Hope and Fulfillment! He brings Life, abundantly.

 V. 45 *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.* Jesus opened their understanding. It’s the same today. Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we won’t understand the scriptures. John 16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.* They understood because Christ revealed. We understand today because Christ reveals. No one knows God until we know Jesus.

 Verses 46 *Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.* Where is this written? He told us in verse 44 – in the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets. Jesus is telling the disciples, and us, that His story is not a Google search and thirty second answer. As His students, as His disciples, we are to search the scriptures, seeking understanding of Christ, His suffering, and His resurrection. In Matthew 16:15 Jesus asks *But who do you say that I am?* And we, as disciples, like Peter, must answer in understanding, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*!”

 It was necessary for Christ to suffer. This was not plan B, but the only plan! The Greek word has the meaning of binding, it was a binding agreement that Christ suffer and rise. A binding agreement between God and His Son. The Trinity made the plan. Romans 5:17 *For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

 Verse 47 *and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* How do we receive this abundance of Grace and gift of Righteousness? Through the repentance, turning away from sin, and the forgiveness that comes through belief on Jesus and His atoning work on the Cross - His propitiation, His atonement between man and God. He and God settled the matter, canceled the debt, and Jesus spoke the words, “It is Finished” from the Cross.

 Verse 48 *And you are witnesses of these things.* The disciples were witnesses. Through the Bible, prayer, meditation, we are witnesses to these things. Through scripture, we see His coming, we understand His sacrifice, we accept His dying, and we embrace His living. As witnesses, we believe and as believers we *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. So that they too may become witnesses, believe, and go.

 This week, where will our study take us? How might our eyes be opened as we study the scripture, seeing the threads of many colors, woven fine in revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ? Who, indeed, do we say He is? Do we find Him in every jot and every tittle? It was necessary that one man died for the Jews and the Gentiles, that the God-sized gulf be mended by God Himself, become flesh. When we believe, we are no longer estranged. We become sons and daughters, grafted in, witnesses, witnessing to a lost and hurting world. Who will receive your witness this week? Who might find their Home because you spoke Light into their darkness?