

Luke 24:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they remembered his words,

Analysis

And they remembered his words. This brief but pivotal verse records the moment when angelic reminder (verses 6-7) triggered recollection. The Greek *emnēsthēsan* (ἐμνήσθησαν) means they recalled, were reminded—an aorist passive indicating the memory came to them through divine prompting, not merely their own effort. The angels had said, "Remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee" (v. 6), quoting Jesus' predictions about His death and resurrection (Luke 9:22, 18:31-33).

His words (τὸν rhēmatōn autou, τῶν ῥῆμάτων αὐτοῦ) refers specifically to Jesus' passion predictions. The women had heard these prophecies but failed to comprehend them—the disciples consistently misunderstood Jesus' suffering predictions (Luke 9:45, 18:34). Now, standing in the empty tomb with angels explaining, **Scripture and reality converged in their minds.** Resurrection made Jesus' words suddenly comprehensible.

This verse demonstrates how divine illumination unlocks Scripture's meaning. The same words that previously confused now brought clarity. The pattern repeats throughout Luke 24: remembered words (v. 8), opened Scriptures (v. 32, 45), recognition (v. 31). Faith requires both objective revelation (God's Word) and subjective illumination (the Spirit's work). The women's remembering shows that God's truth, once deposited in hearts through hearing, can be activated by the Holy Spirit at the appointed time.

Historical Context

Jesus had repeatedly predicted His passion and resurrection during His Galilean ministry and journey to Jerusalem. Each prediction specified the third-day resurrection (Luke 9:22: "be raised the third day"; 18:33: "the third day he shall rise again"). Yet disciples and followers consistently failed to grasp this, perhaps due to Jewish expectations of Messiah's immediate political triumph or inability to conceive of resurrection before the general end-time raising of all the dead.

The women's remembering at the angels' prompting parallels Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would "bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). This principle became foundational for apostolic teaching—the Spirit helped Jesus' followers recall and understand His words after His resurrection and ascension, enabling them to write Gospels and epistles decades later.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit bring Jesus' words to remembrance in believers' lives today at crucial moments?
2. Why is it significant that the women needed angelic prompting to remember what Jesus had clearly predicted?
3. What does this verse teach about the relationship between hearing God's Word and understanding it?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐμνήσθησαν τῶν ὁμιλιῶν αὐτοῦ
And they remembered words his
G2532 G3415 G3588 G4487 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 12:16 (Parallel theme): These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

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