

April 19, 2026 “Stories That Matter: Astounded Us” Luke 24:13–35; Acts 2:36–41

“Moreover, some women of our group astounded us...” Luke 24:24

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” Acts 2:37

There are moments in life that leave us truly amazed and speechless: a sunrise breaking through a storm, a diagnosis reversed, hardened hearts changed, a prodigal child walking back through the door, or a prayer answered in an unexpected way. We often find ourselves saying things like, “I can’t believe it... I’m stunned... I’m amazed.” The Bible has a word for this feeling: astonished.

In both of our passages today, people encounter Jesus in a way that astounds (surprises or amazes) them—not because Jesus suddenly became more powerful, but because they finally see who He has always been. The message today is simple: When Jesus reveals Himself, He astonishes us—through our confusion, our questions, and our moments of repentance.

Jesus astounds us on the Road of Confusion (Luke 24:13–24)

Two disciples walk toward Emmaus with shoulders slumped and hearts heavy. They had hoped Jesus was the One... but the cross shattered their expectations. They’re talking, processing, replaying the trauma — and Jesus Himself comes near, but they don’t recognize Him. This is grace. Jesus doesn’t wait for them to get it right. He doesn’t wait for them to believe correctly. He walks with them **while they’re confused**.

Many of us know that road. The road where prayers feel unanswered. The road where grief fogs our vision. The road where we say, “I thought God was going to do something different.” And Jesus draws near — even when we don’t see Him. **Astonishment begins with His presence, not our clarity.**

Jesus astounds us by opening the Scriptures (Luke 24:25–27)

Jesus listens first — then He speaks. Jesus opens the Scriptures and shows them that the Messiah *had* to suffer, *had* to die, *had* to rise. He reframes their story. He reinterprets their pain. He reveals that what appeared to be defeat was actually God's plan unfolding.

This is what Jesus still does. He takes our limited perspective and expands it. He takes our assumptions and corrects them. He takes our disappointments and shows us the deeper work He’s been doing all along. **Astonishment grows when Jesus helps us see what we missed.**

Jesus astounds us by making Himself known (Luke 24:28–35)

At the table, Jesus breaks the bread — and suddenly their eyes open. Recognition floods in. Hope explodes. Their hearts burn within them. It’s important to note:

- They didn’t recognize Him on the road.

- They didn't recognize Him in the teaching.
- **They recognized Him in the breaking of the bread** — in fellowship, in communion, in the moment of grace.

Jesus reveals Himself to us in surprising ways: in worship, in Scripture, in prayer, in community, in the breaking of bread, and in the quiet moments when we finally stop long enough to see Him. **Astonishment becomes testimony: “He is Alive!”**

Jesus astounds us through the power of the Gospel (Acts 2:36–41)

On the day of Pentecost. Peter stands up — the same Peter who denied Jesus — and boldly proclaims: “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

The crowd is **cut to the heart**. They are stunned, shaken, awakened. The One they misunderstood... is the One who came to save them.

They ask the only question that makes sense: **“What shall we do?”**

Peter's answer is simple and life-changing:

- Repent. - Be baptized.
- Receive forgiveness
- Receive the Holy Spirit

As a result, 3,000 people responded in just one day. **Astonishment becomes revival.**

Jesus still astounds us Today. He astounds us when He walks with us in confusion. He astounds us when Scripture suddenly comes alive. He astounds us when He reveals Himself in worship. He astounds us when hearts are cut open and healed by grace. He astounds us when people repent and find new life. He astounds us when the Spirit moves in ways we didn't expect.

The Emmaus disciples said, **“He astounded us by his presence.”** The Pentecost crowd said, **“What must we do?”** And today, Jesus still reveals Himself in ways that leave us amazed.

Maybe you're on the Emmaus road — confused, disappointed, unsure.

Maybe you're in the Pentecost crowd — convicted, awakened, ready for change.

Wherever you are, Jesus is drawing near. He is speaking. He is revealing. He is saving. He is astounding. **Open your eyes. Open your heart. Let Him astonish you again.**