

The Verdict

▪ What We Found

No new evidence: we read our own ledger whole, then ran every theory against every line on the Verdict Grid: survival, wrong tomb, theft, hallucination, legend, and “God raised him,” each tested with the same severity, combinations included. We read CCC 156-157 and said plainly what an argument delivers (the best explanation of the facts we ourselves signed) and what only freedom and grace can add. On the Emmaus road, two disciples with our same facts and buried hopes met a stranger who gave the facts their frame, and knew him in the breaking of the bread. Then each of us opened one envelope, alone.

▪ Voices of the Church

St. John Henry Newman • *Grammar of Assent*

Real certainty usually comes by converging independent probabilities, supporting one another like stones of an arch. (Summary.)

St. Thomas Aquinas • *Summa Theologiae II-II q. 2 a. 9*

The signs make believing reasonable; they do not compel. In that space, freedom and grace operate, and the act of faith is meritorious. (Summary.)

St. Augustine • *Confessions VI.5*

Most of what we firmly know, we hold on testimony, and reasonably; this opened Augustine to weigh the scriptures seriously. (Summary.)

▪ Live It This Week

- Once this week, re-read your verdict card and ask: is this still my verdict? Amend it freely; it is yours.
- Read Luke 24:13-35 once more, at walking pace.

▪ Scripture Memory Verse

Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:32 (RSV2CE)

▪ Before Next Session

Before Session 8: read John 20:1-18. Watch for the garden.

Catechism connections for this session: CCC 156-159, 647.