

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study
Lesson Thirty-Nine

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 24 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

This chapter details the most important aspect of our faith – Jesus's resurrection! After the sorrow and suffering from the crucifixion, we now have the glorious account of His rising from the dead and how people responded to this fact.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 – “Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ only in this life, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

Without Christ's resurrection, our faith in Jesus is meaningless. There would be no eternal life, no forgiveness, no grace freely poured out on our aching hearts if it were not for Jesus's perfect, sinless life and His resurrection from the dead. Praise the Lord for His mercy and eternal plan of redemption through Christ Jesus!

Read Luke 24:1-12

The women, which consists of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women who are not named, are taking spices to properly complete the burial of Jesus's body. They are the first to discover the empty tomb. There are angels waiting from them and they say the amazing words found in verses 6-7, *“He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise from the dead.”*

The angels remind the women that Jesus predicted His own resurrection many times.

1. Read John 2:18-22. Find other times in scripture where Jesus predicted His own death.

David Guzik – “The angels’ question made a point: the living are not to be found among the dead. We should not expect spiritual life among those who do not have it. Many look for Jesus in dead things – religious traditionalism, formalism, man’s rules, human effort and ingenuity. We find Jesus only where there is resurrection life, where He is worshipped in Spirit and in truth.”

When the women return to tell the disciples about the empty tomb, there were two initial reactions. Most of the disciples are skeptical about the women’s claims while Peter immediately rushed to see for himself.

Peter had denied Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-62) and yet was one of the first of the disciples to rush to the empty tomb (we are told in John 20:2-10 that John was also with Peter). John 20:8 makes it clear that John, the “other disciple” believed upon seeing the empty tomb, while Peter merely “marveled.” The scriptures seem to indicate that Peter did not yet understand the full weight of the empty tomb.

2. What is the difference between knowing the truth and believing the truth? How can we keep ourselves from being puffed up with knowledge and yet still maintain humility and a soft, compassionate heart to others?

David Guzik – “You can know that Jesus rose from the dead, but unless you know His words, it won’t make sense. Without knowing the life and teachings of Jesus:

- You don’t know that the resurrection means that the payment that Jesus offered on the cross was perfect and complete.
- You don’t know that the cross was the payment and the empty tomb is the receipt.
- You don’t know that death has no hold on redeemed man.
- You don’t know that when God’s love and man’s hate battled at the cross, God’s love won.
- You don’t know that because Jesus was raised from the dead, we can be resurrected in Him.”

3. Matthew 28:1-2, Mark 16:1-2, Luke 23:55-24:3 and John 20:1-2 have different accounts of who the first witnesses were to the empty tomb. Why do these differences exist of the resurrection account?

Do these seeming inconsistencies negate or prove the truth of the resurrection? Why or why not?

Pate – “This lack of spectacular detail itself speaks for the historicity of the New Testament documents. There is no attempt on the part of the writers to embellish the event of the Resurrection.”

Former homicide detective, J. Warner Wallace, author of *Cold-Case Christianity*, says, “As a detective, I’ve learned to accept the variation I see between eyewitness accounts. I’ve interviewed witnesses of crimes (occurring just hours earlier), only to find what appeared to be significant “contradictions” between the accounts. It’s my job, as the investigator, to determine why the eyewitnesses appear to contradict one another, even though there is no doubt the event occurred and the witnesses were telling the truth. There are times when similar variations (or alleged “contradictions”) are observed in the Biblical accounts.” He points out in other interviews that multiple people who are lying to cover a crime will often have the exact same account because they have rehearsed the story. This is a red flag to detectives. The small differences between the gospel accounts are expected and lend to the authenticity of the Bible and the truth of the gospel.

Read Luke 24:13-35

Mark 16:12-13 briefly mentions the encounter of these two disciples with the risen Jesus but the details of this story are unique to Luke.

Luke 24:16 – “But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.”

4. Why do you think the disciples’ eyes were kept from recognizing Jesus?

Luke 24:26-27 – “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to come into His glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures.”

5. The Old Testament has over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus. Find several of these Scriptures.

6. Read Psalm 22. How do these verses prophesy about Jesus?

Charles Spurgeon – “[Jesus] knew by his omniscience what was the most instructive way of teaching, and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets, he showed us that the surest road to wisdom is not speculation, reasoning, or reading human books, but meditation upon the Word of God. The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from this heavenly sea. When Jesus himself sought to enrich others, he wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.”

Notice how Jesus walks with the two disciples and gently guides them into the knowledge that He is the Christ. They have questions and are genuinely seeking, and Christ gives them the answers they are looking for from the Word.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 tells us to *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

7. Was there a time in your life you were discipled? Who discipled you and what did you learn from their guidance?

8. Are you discipling anyone? Prayerfully consider who the Lord has placed in your life that you might be able to disciple.

9. What are some practical ways we can disciple others? What does discipleship look like in our modern age?

10. Jesus’s “reasoning from the Scriptures” here demonstrates the importance of knowing and memorizing the Word of God so that we may use it show people the truth of the gospel. **Find some passages of Scripture that clearly detail the gospel. Challenge yourself to memorize one of these passages so you may be ready to present the gospel clearly when the time comes.**

Charles Spurgeon – “Keep back no part of the precious truth, but speak what you know, and testify what you have seen. Let not the toil or darkness, or possible unbelief of your friends, weigh one moment in the scale. Up, and be marching to the place of duty, and there tell what great things God has shown to your soul.”

Read Luke 24:36-49

What a blessing it would be to have the living Christ stand among us in bodily form!

David Guzik – “Jesus first displayed His wounded hands and feet to the disciples. In this Jesus wanted to establish both His identity and His bodily existence, and that it was in a transformed state *the same body* He had before the cross, upon the cross, and set in the tomb. It is remarkable to consider that the resurrection body of Jesus retains the wounds He received in His sufferings and crucifixion. There are many possible reasons for this.

- To exhibit the wounds to the disciples, that they would know that it was the very same Jesus.
- To be the object of eternal amazement to the angels.
- To be His ornaments, trophies of His great work for us.
- To memorialize the weapons with which He defeated death.
- To serve as advocates in His perpetual intercession for us.
- To preserve the evidence of humanity’s crime against Him.”

11. In verse 49 Jesus refers to the “promise of my Father.” What is the promise?

12. Read John 16:13. How does the Holy Spirit “guide us into all truth?” Find an example in scripture of the Holy Spirit guiding believers.

13. When was a time the Holy Spirit guided you into truth? How did it help the situation or conflict you were facing?

Read Luke 24:50-53

The followers of Jesus continually blessed God with joy because of Jesus’s resurrection and because of His forgiveness and love. **Take some time to contemplate the joy of the Lord.**

14. Examine your own heart. Are you living in the joy of Jesus’s resurrection? Are you discipling and helping others know and love Jesus?

Read Psalm 34. Even if we have failed, our sins are forgiven and we can have great joy in our Lord and Savior!

Lord, thank you for the Resurrection. Thank You for the joy of the empty tomb and the abounding grace we have because of You crushing our punishment of sin on the cross. Thank You for being our Savior. Help us to walk with humility, gratitude, and love knowing You have redeemed us and You will keep us firm to the end. Give us endurance and strength for all that lies ahead, and thank You for sustaining us through it all.

Luke 21:19 – “By your endurance you will gain your lives.”