**The Gospel of Luke**

**Lesson 25** Luke 24:13-53 Jesus’ Appears to Disciples/Ascension!

**Questions:**

1. What important truth did you learn from the lecture, and how does it apply to your life?
2. Read Wiersbe pages 166-172.
   1. What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?
   2. How does Jesus enable us to fulfill our commission to be his witnesses today?
3. Read Luke 24:13-27 and the article entitled, “What happened on the road to Emmaus”.

The events on the road to Emmaus are discussed in Luke 24. In this final chapter of Luke’s Gospel, we read of two disciples (Cleopas and one unnamed) of Jesus who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the day that Jesus rose from the dead. As they traveled, a man joined them—the resurrected Jesus, although they did not recognize Him. The man asked, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” (Luke 24:17).

The two disciples were surprised that the man had not heard of the recent events that had Jerusalem in turmoil. They proceeded to tell the stranger of Jesus’ crucifixion and the report of His empty tomb. Jesus responded, “‘How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25-27).

So, as they walked, Jesus taught what the Old Testament had predicted about Himself. When they arrived in Emmaus that evening, the two disciples stopped to eat, and they asked Jesus to join them. He did, and as He broke the bread and blessed the meal, “their eyes were opened” (verse 31), and they recognized Him. Jesus then vanished.

Their response? Luke reports, “They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen’” (verses 33-34).

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus gave a lesson on the prophecies of the Old Testament which were fulfilled in His death and resurrection. What a lesson that would have been! The Author of the Book explains His work, making connections from Scripture to the events they had recently experienced.

The disciples’ reaction to Jesus’ lesson was one of deep conviction of the truth of what He was teaching. “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked?” they ask each other (verse 32). Their physical eyes were blinded to the identity of Jesus, but their eyes of faith were being opened as Jesus opened the Scriptures to them.

Following this account, Jesus appears to His other disciples, removing all doubt that He was alive. Jesus had promised that He would show Himself to those who love Him (John 14:21), and this is exactly what He does on the road to Emmaus.

The story of the disciples on the Emmaus Road is important for many reasons. It provides an *emphasis* on the Old Testament prophecies related to Jesus, *evidence* regarding an additional appearance of Jesus, and a connection regarding the many *eyewitnesses* of the resurrected Jesus. Luke 24 is often seen as a model of the journey that Jesus makes with many of us today, as He opens our eyes, points us to the Word, and reveals Himself along life’s walk as the resurrected Savior and Lord.

* 1. Describe the attitude of the two disciples as they walked to Emmaus (verses 17, 21, 22-24). What are the leading causes of your spiritual disappointments?
  2. According to Cleopas, what things were known to the two disciples? Why were these things insufficient for recognizing Jesus (Hint: verse 16 says, “they were kept from recognizing him.”)?
  3. What does Jesus identify as the reason for their confusion (v. 25; Romans 10:9-10)?
  4. In what way did Jesus enlighten his disciples (Hint: the phrase “Moses and all the Prophets” is shorthand for the entire Old Testament)? What are the means by which a person may know the truth about Jesus (Romans 10:17)?
  5. [Thought Question] Why is it important for Christians to study the Bible in its entirety (Luke 24:27, 44; John 1:1-2, 45; 5:39-40)?

1. Read Luke 24:28-35. As Jesus and the disciples drew near to the village, they invited him to stay with them.
   1. Jesus’ breaking of the bread was highly symbolic and seemed to point back to what significant event noted in Luke 9:10-17?
   2. [Thought Question] Why do you think it was important for Jesus to teach them from Scripture before their spiritual eyes were opened?
2. Read Luke 24:36-43. The excited disciples quickly returned to Jerusalem and found the Eleven and others who had gathered with them.
   1. What surprising news did the two receive when they arrived?
   2. What wonderful truth were they beginning to grasp? Yet, what was their reaction when Jesus suddenly appeared among them (v. 37)?
   3. How does Jesus calm the disciples’ fears (vv. 38-44)? Use your own words to describe the disciples’ response as Jesus showed them his hands and feet and invited them to touch and see that he was “flesh and bones.”
   4. Can you think of a time when you experienced something too good to be true?

Read the article entitled, “Does Jesus have a physical body in heaven.”

The physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus is foundational to Christian doctrine and our hope of heaven. Because Jesus rose from the dead with a physical body, every Christian has the guarantee of his own bodily resurrection (John 5:21, 28; Romans 8:23). Now Jesus is in heaven, where He is pictured as sitting in a place of authority, at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:22). But is Jesus’ body in heaven the same as His body on earth?

The Bible is clear that Jesus’ body was resurrected. The tomb was empty. He was recognizable to those who knew Him. Jesus showed Himself to all His disciples after His resurrection, and more than five hundred people were eyewitnesses to His earthly, post-resurrection presence (1 Corinthians 15:4–6). In Luke 24:16, on the road to Emmaus, two of Jesus’ disciples “were kept from recognizing [Jesus].” However, later, “their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him” (verse 31). It’s not that Jesus was unrecognizable; it’s that, for a time, the disciples were supernaturally restrained from recognizing Him.

Later in the same chapter of Luke, Christ makes it plain to His disciples that He does have a physical body; He is not a disembodied spirit: “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39). After spending forty days with His disciples, Jesus ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9). Jesus is still human, and He has a human body in heaven right now. His body is different, however; earthly human flesh is perishable, but heavenly bodies are imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:50). Jesus has a physical body, with a difference. His resurrected body is designed with eternity in view.

First Corinthians 15:35–49 describes what the body of the believer will be like in heaven. Our heavenly bodies will differ from our earthly ones in type of flesh, in splendor, in power, and in longevity. The apostle Paul also states that the believer’s body will be an image of Christ’s body (verse 49). Paul discusses this subject again in 2 Corinthians, where he compares earthly bodies to tents and heavenly bodies to heavenly dwellings (2 Corinthians 5:1–2). Paul says that, once the earthly tents come off, Christians will not be left “naked”—that is, without a body to live in (2 Corinthians 5:3). When the new body is “put on,” we will go from mortality to immortality (2 Corinthians 5:4).

So, we know that the Christian will have a heavenly body like Jesus’ “glorious body” (Philippians 3:21). At His incarnation Jesus took on human flesh, and at His resurrection His body was glorified—although He retained the scars (John 20:27). He will forever be the God-Man, sacrificed for us. Christ, the Creator of the universe, will forever stoop to our level, and He will be known to us in heaven in a tangible form that we can see, hear, and touch (Revelation 21:3–4; 22:4).

* 1. Explain why Jesus’ physical, bodily resurrection is a source of hope for a Christian.
  2. What does the Bible say believers can look forward to one day (Philippians 3:21)? How does this passage bring you comfort today (Philippians 1:6)?

1. Read Luke 24:44-49. Once again, Jesus reminded his disciples that “everything written about him in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
   1. What important point is Jesus making by pointing the disciples back to the Scriptures? (Hint: think of Jesus’ warning in the parable of Lazarus and the rich   
      man [Luke 16:31])
   2. In verse 31, Jesus opened the eyes of his disciples. Why is it essential for him   
      to later open “their minds to understand the Scriptures (v. 45)?”
   3. With their minds opened, what truth do they now understand (vv. 46-47;   
      1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?
   4. How should we respond having understood the truth of the gospel (Luke 24:9-10, 33)? [Thought Question] What does it mean to preach the gospel in his name (v. 47)?
   5. What commission does Jesus give his disciples (v. 48)?
   6. Who does Jesus promise to send after his ascension? What is absolutely necessary for the gospel to advance (John 14:12; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:21)
2. Read Luke 24:50-53. Over the next forty days, Jesus appeared at other gatherings speaking of the kingdom of God, even appearing to more than five hundred at once.   
   (Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8).
   1. What happened as Jesus blessed those gathered at Bethany (Philippians 2:9-11)?   
      Why is this great news for the believer (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; Ephesians 2:6)?
   2. Where is Jesus now (Mark 16:19; 1 Peter 3:22)? What is he continually doing on   
      our behalf (Romans 8:34)
   3. List three things Jesus’ disciples did after he was carried up into heaven. What does each of these things communicate about their faith?
3. Read Luke 1:1-4. “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, **2**just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, **3**it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4**that you may have certainty concerning   
   the things you have been taught.”
   1. What was Luke’s stated purpose in writing his gospel?
   2. How certain are you concerning the things you have been taught?
   3. Who will you tell about Jesus?