

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 40

As you approach this final chapter in Luke's account of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth, it is worth recalling the words with which Luke opens his gospel. He writes to Theophilus:

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:1-4).

Luke closes his gospel with similar words of assurance, this time quoting the resurrected Lord Jesus as He prepares to ascend.

“This is what I told you when I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44).

As this study of the Gospel of Luke draws to a conclusion, ask God to clear away any doubt, fear or unbelief regarding the things that this gospel presents about Jesus of Nazareth.

The Resurrection

1. Read Luke 24:1-12.
 - A. What day is the first day of the week?
 - B. Why were the women taking spices they had prepared to the tomb where Jesus had been lain?
 - C. From verses 2-3, what two conditions confronted the women when they reached the tomb?
 - D. What do you think the women may have been thinking as they gazed at the scene before them? Why?
 - E. What suddenly happens as the women are wondering about all of this?
 - F. From verse 5, how do the women react?

- G. From verses 5-7, what do the two men in clothes gleaming like lightning say to the women?

- H. From verse 8, how do the women respond to what they have been told?

2. Read Luke 24:9=12.

- A. Name some of the women who had gone to the tomb.

- B. When the women returned from the tomb, they told the eleven disciples and all the others what they had seen. How did the apostles react to the witness of the women?

- C. Why would this testimony of women seem like nonsense?

- D. Does the testimony of the women appear nonsensical to you? Why or why not?

- E. From Luke 24:12a, what does Peter do after hearing the women's report?

- F. Considering his denial of Jesus, what may have Peter been thinking now?

- G. What does Peter see when he arrives at the tomb?

- H. What is Peter thinking when he leaves the tomb?

- I. Do you think that Peter believes that Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead at this point? Please explain.

- J. At this point in your life, do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead? Why or why not?

- K. From your perspective, does it matter whether Jesus is risen from the dead? Please explain.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-23. According to the apostle Paul, what are the implications for each of us if Jesus is alive or not? Please explain.

The Road to Emmaus

4. Read Luke 24:13-35.
 - A. Where is Emmaus?
 - B. Who is traveling to Emmaus?
 - C. What are they discussing?
 - D. Who comes alongside them?
 - E. Is He recognized by them?
 - F. The two knew Jesus and were part of his company, but they did not recognize Him. Explain why not.

- G. From verse 17, what does Jesus ask these two?

- H. From verse 18, what is their response to Jesus? What is so ironic about this remark?

- I. Considering that Jesus knows all that has happened, why do you think He asks, "What things?"

- J. From verses 19-24, summarize the two travelers' response to Jesus.

- K. From verses 25-27, how does Jesus reply to them?

- L. As they approach Emmaus, Jesus acts as though He is going farther, but the two urge Him to stay and share a meal. Refer to verses 30-31 and describe what happens at this meal.
- M. After Jesus disappears from their sight, the two exclaim, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scripture to us?” If you want to know Jesus better, what principles can you derive from this story?
- N. Even though the day was almost over, what do these two decide to do after their encounter with Jesus?

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

5. Read Luke 24:33-49.
 - A. Back in Jerusalem, the two travelers found the Eleven disciples and others gathered together. What do the two tell the group?

 - B. Who appears as they are talking and what does He say?

 - C. How does the group react to Him?

 - D. From verses 37-43, what does Jesus say and do to calm their fears?

 - E. What great doctrine of the Christian faith is firmly established by Jesus' appearing?

F. Referring to Luke 24:44-47:

(1) What does Jesus say must be fulfilled?

(2) Who opens minds so that they can understand the Scriptures?

G. From verses 46-49, what great truths of Christ and Scripture are to be proclaimed to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem?

The Ascension

6. Read Luke 24:50-53.

A. When Jesus had led them out near _____, He lifted His _____ and _____ them.

B. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into _____.

C. Then they _____ Him and _____ to Jerusalem with great _____.

D. And they stayed continually at the _____,
_____ God.

E. Why was it entirely appropriate for the disciples to worship Jesus and praise God? Why is it for us?