

Lesson 27 – Luke 24 The Resurrection, Post Resurrection Appearances and the Ascension

1. Read Luke 24:1-8 and footnotes, then read Matthew 28:1-5 and John 20: 1-3, 11-16.

How are Luke, Matthew and John alike?

How are they different? Be specific.

Luke 24:1-8 ¹ But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. ⁵ They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.” ⁸ And they remembered his words.

Matthew 28:1-5 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,^[b] Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. ⁴ The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵ Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

John 20: 1-3, 11-16 On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

¹¹ But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” She thought it was the gardener and said to him, “Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher.

2. Read John 20:3-10 and Luke 24:9-12 and footnotes. The verses from John’s Gospel show the reactions of the disciples to the news that Jesus’ tomb was empty. Did the disciples believe what they were told by the women? Do the disciples understand what has happened yet?

Luke 24:9-12 Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, ¹¹ but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

John 20:3-10 ³ So Peter and the other disciple (whom Jesus loved) went out and came to the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; ⁵ he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. ⁶ When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, ⁷ and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. ⁸ Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned home.

3. Read Luke 24:13-16 and footnotes. Also read 1 Corinthians 15:35-40.

Why did the disciples not recognize Jesus on the road to Emmaus? In addition to using 1 Corinthians, consider what Jesus must have looked like the last time they *did* see Him.

Luke 24:13-16 ¹³ Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles^[1] from Jerusalem called Emmaus, ¹⁴ and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. ¹⁵ And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, ¹⁶ ^[2] but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

1 Corinthians 15:35-40 ³⁵ But someone may say, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come back?" ³⁶ You fool! What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind; ³⁸ but God gives it a body as he chooses, and to each of the seeds its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for human beings, another kind of flesh for animals, another kind of flesh for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the brightness of the heavenly is one kind and that of the earthly another.

4. Read Luke 24:17-27 and footnotes. Share any interesting information you find in your footnotes.

How does Cleopas describe Jesus?

What does Cleopas say they had hoped Jesus would do as the Messiah?

What is it that Jesus is teaching the disciples about scripture?

5. Read Luke 24:28-35 and footnotes.

How did the disciples come to finally recognize Jesus?

The divine power of Jesus "opened" two things for the disciples. What were they? (See verses 31-32)

When Cleopas and his fellow traveler return to Jerusalem, what were the disciples in Jerusalem talking about? (See vs. 33-34)

6. Read Luke 24:36-43 and footnotes.

Why were the disciples frightened?

Why was it important that Jesus ate fish in front of the disciples?

7. Read Luke 24:44-49 and footnotes. See also Matthew 28:16-20, below.

After instructing the disciples about how His death and suffering fulfilled the Scriptures, what *role* and *purpose* does Jesus give the disciples in Luke 24:46-48?

Matthew 28:16-20 The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

8. Read again Luke 24:44-49 and John 14:25-26 below.

What instructions does Jesus give the disciples in Luke 24:49?

What is the promise of the Father that Jesus refers to in Luke 24:49?

John 14:25-26 ²⁵ "I have told you this while I am with you. ²⁶ The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.

9. Read Luke 24: 50-53. Reflections: Have you ever been so moved by an event in your life that you felt *compelled* to spend time in church? Why are the Resurrection and Ascension so important to our faith?