

Revealed

Jesus reveals His identity to those seeking Him.

LUKE 24:18-31



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...cen
...IONED
...that on or
...ught the pe
...ed the gospel.
...cribes came u

...him, saying, Tell us,
...est thou these things;
...ave thee this authority;
...w⁵ answered and said unto the
...you one thing; and answer
...ptism of John, was it from he
...men?

...they reasoned with themselves,
...f we shall say, From heaven; he
...Why then believed ye him not?

...⁶ But and if we say, Of men; all the pe
...will stone us: ⁷for they be persuaded
...John was a prophct.

...⁷ And they answered, that they could
...tell whence *it was*.

...⁸ And Jesus said unto them, Neither
...I you by what authority I do these thi

THE LORD OF THE VINEYARD

...⁹ Then began he to speak to the people
...parable; ¹⁰A certain man planted a viney

...thought of His rejection by the city of
...usalem. Genuine, lasting peace with
...od comes through faith in Jesus Christ
... (Rom. 5:1). The Jews enjoyed a temporal
...though imperfect peace under Roman rule,

...19:47-48 The religious leaders of J
...were increasingly desperate to get r
...Jesus, but they were hesitant to ac
...cause Jesus had gained considerable
...ularity among the masses.

What is something that you had difficulty doing or understanding, and then after several attempts suddenly everything made sense?

Math can be frustrating until something finally clicks and it all makes sense. We may even have trouble remembering how we know someone until they do or say something that triggers our memory. Some people have a hard time understanding Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus is ready to reveal the truth to those who seek Him.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jesus' appearance on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) is the first of three resurrection appearances in Luke. This account reveals the wonder of God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:1 tells us it was on "the first day of the week" that the women and Peter found the tomb empty. Consider what has come before this passage. The work was completed on the sixth day—on "Good Friday"—when Jesus declared of His work, "It is finished." Then came rest on the seventh (Saturday)—a day of silence. The only account we have of Holy Saturday in the Scriptures comes from Matthew 27:62-66. It is in that account the Pharisees remembered Jesus' words that after three days He would rise again, to which Pilate told the soldiers to go and make the tomb as secure as they could (Matt. 27:63-65). Foolish Pilate was about to see the power of God. There was no tomb secure enough to keep Christ.

Christ completed the work of righteousness on the cross. It was now finished. On Sunday, "the first day of the week," the tomb was found empty. As Christians we know that this wasn't just the first day of the week; it was the dawn of a new age. It is on that very day, the first day of the week, that we resume the narrative, beginning with the journey on the Emmaus road.

LUKE 24:18-31

18 The one named Cleopas answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked them. So they said to him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and all the people, **20** and how **our chief priests and leaders**^A handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. **21** But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to **redeem Israel**^B. Besides all this, it’s the third day since these things happened. **22** Moreover, some women from our group astounded us. They arrived early at the tomb, **23** and when they didn’t find his body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn’t see him.” **25** He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26 Wasn’t it necessary**^C for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures. **28** They came near the village where they were going, and he gave the impression that he was going farther. **29** But **they urged him**^D, “Stay with us, because it’s almost evening, and now the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. **30** It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31** Then **their eyes were opened**^E, and they recognized him, but he **disappeared from their sight**^F.

Passage Outline

Questions (Luke 24:18-24)

Answers (Luke 24:25-27)

Recognized (Luke 24:28-31)

Key Words

- A. These men blamed the Sanhedrin for handing over an innocent Jesus to the Romans for crucifixion.
- B. They hoped Jesus would “redeem Israel and set our nation free” (AMP) from bondage to Rome.
- C. The things that disturbed the men were the very things the prophets predicted and which proved Jesus was the Messiah.
- D. The word for *urged* could be translated “compelled,” though the context shows the compelling came from kind words of invitation. He would have traveled on if they hadn’t asked Him to stay. Jesus only stays where He is welcome.
- E. With the breaking of the bread and giving thanks to the Father, they knew it was Jesus.
- F. In other words, He didn’t walk away or just decide to leave.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

This scene begins with two disciples walking to a village called Emmaus on the same day of the resurrection (v. 13). Presumably, they were on their way home. The Scripture tells us that as they were discussing the events that had taken place, a third traveler joined them. Their eyes were kept from recognizing who this mysterious visitor was. In response to the question by the stranger, *Cleopas* almost had a playful tone toward the traveler by asking if he had been the only person in Jerusalem to not know the things that happened there. They proclaimed that Jesus *was a prophet mighty in deed and word*, yet the authorities murdered Him. All along, they were hoping He would redeem them from the power of those very authorities. The two disciples retold the experience of the women (vv. 1-12). In that culture, the testimony of *women* was not regarded as credible.

BIBLE SKILL: Use a Bible atlas and Bible dictionary to locate and learn about places mentioned in Scripture. Use a Bible atlas and a Bible dictionary to learn more about Emmaus. Find Emmaus on the map. Consider the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus. Read the entry in a Bible dictionary about Emmaus. How does knowing more about Emmaus and the topography help you appreciate the response of the two disciples after they realized who Jesus was?

What questions do people have about Jesus? What questions do you have about Him?

KEY DOCTRINE: Scripture. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation (Heb. 1:1-2).

Noting that these disciples were initially unwilling to believe the report of Jesus' resurrection, the traveler (Jesus) rebuked them. On that seven-mile stretch of road, these two were schooled in one of the greatest biblical theology lessons ever delivered.

What role should the Bible play in us helping people understand Jesus?

As the trio walked, they *drew near to the village* where the two disciples had been going. Apparently, they had not yet comprehended all Jesus had been teaching them. The road wound past the village and Jesus *acted as if he were going farther*. The word *acted* suggests pretending, but in Jesus was no pretense. He knew what was about to happen, but did not wish to appear presumptuous. He wanted these two to initiate further conversation.

How does spending time with God open the door for greater understanding of Him and His truth?

As Jesus *blessed* and *broke* the bread, the disciples' eyes, which had been prevented from recognizing Jesus earlier in the evening, *were opened*. Immediately, Jesus *vanished from their sight*. After the resurrection, Jesus had a glorified body that was no longer limited by time and space.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping people understand the truth about Jesus?

APPLY THE TEXT

- All people should be encouraged to discover the truth about Jesus.
- God reveals His truth through His Word.
- The Holy Spirit helps people understand the truth about Jesus.

What are a few practical ways that you can encourage others to personally explore the claims of Christ? If all people are encouraged to discover the truth about Jesus, what actions do you need to take to be a better guide?

As a group, share about your Bible reading practices. What can the group do to encourage each other to be more disciplined in regularly reading the Bible?

Call to mind someone that you know of who needs to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Begin to pray for them daily, asking God to use you to help them see the truth of the gospel.

Prayer Requests



DAILY EXPLORATION

Day 1: We all have questions about Jesus.

Read Luke 24:18-21, considering the disciples' questions.

The two disciples were looking for a Messiah who would redeem them by political power which is one reason the crucifixion was so devastating. If Jesus had been the one to redeem Israel, He should have been defeating the pagans, not dying at their hands! These two disciples had low expectations. Jesus came to redeem them from a power much greater than political authorities. Before they could begin to see and understand, they had to be prepared. They, like everybody else in Israel, had been reading Scripture through the wrong end of the telescope. You could say they were expecting God to redeem Israel from their suffering rather than redeem His people through His own suffering. They had not yet understood that Jesus' kingdom was not gained through conquest but through crucifixion. Pointing to this being *the third day* since Jesus' death means they made some kind of connection to Jesus' teachings about being resurrected but were either impatient or unbelieving at this point.

What questions do you have about Jesus?

Day 2: We should search for answers to our questions about Jesus.

Read Luke 24:22-24, contemplating the proof required to believe in Jesus' resurrection.

In rehearsing the story with the traveler, the two disciples retold the experience of the *women* (vv. 1-12). In that culture, the testimony of women was not regarded as credible. The testimony of women was not admissible evidence in a Roman or Jewish court of law. Therefore, if you're making up a legend about the resurrection, you would never put women in there as the first eyewitnesses. There's no other motivation to mention this piece of information except that the story is credible. The disciples noted they were first *amazed* by the news of the resurrection, which points back to verse 11, where the initial report seemed like nonsense. This is why some of them ran to the tomb to see for themselves and found it empty as the women had said. There is a sense in which all of us should "go and see for ourselves." If the resurrection did happen, then nothing matters more. We should all search the Scriptures and see for ourselves. The Scriptures testify that Jesus was crucified for our sin and rose again to redeem us from our sinfulness.

What proof do you require, or have required in the past, to believe in Jesus' resurrection?

Day 3: God reveals His truth through Scripture.

Read Luke 24:25-27, highlighting verse 26.

Jesus asked if the disciples did not understand why it was *necessary that the Christ should suffer these things*. Christ's suffering and crucifixion was where these and other disciples struggled. Jesus did not fit the model of the Messiah most Jews envisioned. They couldn't accept that His crucifixion was somehow necessary. Jesus went further. He wanted them to know the suffering and death (these things) were necessary for Him to *enter into his glory*. Jesus' glory refers to His return to heaven where He reigns with God the Father (Luke 9:26). It also includes His second coming when He will return in power and glory (Luke 21:27). Some scholars identify Christ's glory with the salvation of believers, which could not have been possible apart from His atoning suffering and death on their behalf. Now, the Word made flesh walked through the Word and showed how all of it pointed to Him. When Luke said, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he was using shorthand for the entirety of the Old Testament. God reveals His truth through Scripture—the basis of our belief. The fulfillment of scores of prophecies over thousands of years points to one undeniable truth—Jesus is the Messiah.

What role does the Bible play in helping you understand Jesus?

Day 4: The more time you spend with God, the clearer His truths become.

Read Luke 24:28-29, noticing the disciples' eagerness to stay with Jesus longer.

Arriving at the village, the two men *urged* Jesus to stay. This was more than a casual invitation. To urge suggests compelling someone vigorously. Their invitation involved accepting accommodations overnight. The day was almost over; the sun was setting. Their traveling companion obviously had no place to spend the night. Hospitality would have been a strong motivator for the two disciples to invite Jesus to come to their home for a meal and a place to sleep. However, the urgency of their invitation suggests they were being more than polite. Jesus' explanation of Scripture had moved them deeply and they wanted to hear more. The word *so* in verse 29 could be translated "accordingly" and links their offer to Jesus' response. Jesus planned to leave soon, but before doing so He wanted them to have the blessing of seeing Him clearly.

How does spending time with God open the door for you to have a greater understanding of Him and His truth?

Day 5: We understand who Jesus is by spending time with Him.

Read Luke 24:30-31, noting when the disciples recognized Jesus.

This day occurred within the seven days following Passover. Jesus was not re-enacting the Lord's Supper, although some scholars point out the similarity and symbolism. These two disciples were not in the upper room with the apostles at the Passover meal. Unless the apostles had discussed it with the other disciples, they may not have understood how the bread represented His body that was broken for them. Since Jesus did not stay with them, these two men quickly returned to the gathering of the Eleven and other disciples in Jerusalem. While they were there, Jesus appeared in their midst and revealed Himself (Luke 24:36). At first, the other disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, but these two saw and knew this was Jesus. Only when we sit with Jesus, experience His presence, and have our eyes opened spiritually, do we then understand who He is.

How does the Holy Spirit help you understand the truth about Jesus?

TALK IT OUT

Reflect on the truths found in Luke 24, sharing with other members of your Bible study group.

How did Jesus approach this encounter with His followers?

How did Jesus demonstrate patience to His followers as He explained the Scriptures?

How does God remove a person's blindness to the truth?

