

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

BIBLE TEXT : Luke 24:1-48

LESSON 65 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:4).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Luke 24:1-48

¹ Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

² And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

³ And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

⁸ And they remembered his words,

⁹ And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

¹¹ And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

¹² Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed,

NOTES:

The Empty Grave

Christ had triumphed over all His enemies. The grave could not hold the divine Son of God. He had said He would rise on the third day; and when that day dawned, no power of man -- the stone before the tomb, the Roman seal the soldiers who guarded the grave -- could hold back the resurrected Saviour. He had paid the price of our redemption and had won for us eternal life.

The disciples could not believe the report of the women who said they had found the sepulchre empty, and that they had seen angels who told them that Christ had risen. They seemed to have forgotten all that Jesus had said about His rising again. They had believed Jesus would deliver them from the Roman government; but now He was dead, and they were so grieved that they apparent never gave His resurrection a thought.

The scribes and Pharisees did not believe in Jesus, but they had heard that He had said He would rise the third day, and they remembered it. They wanted the grave sealed securely so that no one would steal His body and claim He had risen. But the disciples had forgotten. Even when they found the tomb empty they did not realise what had happened.

Slow to Believe

When two of Christ's disciples were on their way to Emmaus that Sunday night, they thought their last hope had fled. A "Stranger" caught up with them and wanted to know why they were so sad. They were surprised that He did not seem to know about all the excitement that had stirred the people of Jerusalem, and they told Him about the irregular trial of Jesus and His cruel crucifixion. The Stranger reproved them because they were so slow to believe what the Scriptures had said about the Christ. His Kingdom was not of this world, and it was needful that He die to redeem mankind, but He would rise again. Those Scriptures had been fulfilled, but still their understanding was dim, nor did they recognise the Man Who was walking with them, and explaining the Word.

When they came to the village to which they were going, and He seemed to be going on, the disciples asked Jesus to come in and dine with them. He accepted; and when the meal was ready, He took His place at the head of the table and asked the blessing upon the food they were about to eat. Then the disciples recognised Him as the Lord -- and He vanished from their presence.

Back to Jerusalem

They were so excited at having seen Jesus alive again that they quickly started back to Jerusalem. It was about seven and one-half miles, and it was night, and they had to walk, but nothing could hold them back. They had seen Jesus alive!

They came to the room where the Apostles were gathered, but before they had an opportunity to tell their good news, they were told that Peter had also seen Jesus. While they were excitedly talking about this great miracle, Jesus appeared among them. He did not scold them, nor even remind them that they had forsaken Him in the garden. Rather, He blessed them and said, "Peace be

wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

¹³ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs.

¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women

unto you." He did not want them to be afraid, but to believe in Him. He showed them His hands and feet, and the side that the Roman soldier had pierced with the sword. They could not doubt that He was Jesus.

But what kind of body did He have? He had been dead, and they thought He might be a spirit. But Jesus asked for food, and sat down and ate with them. He had a glorified body that could pass through ways; yet He was not a spirit (Luke 24:39).

The Gospel to All Men

For forty days Jesus appeared among His disciples, encouraging them, giving them instructions for the founding of the Church. He was about to go to Heaven, and leave them to preach the Gospel. He promised He would send the Comforter Who would tell them what to say, and would give them mighty power and holy boldness before sinners. They were to begin their ministry in Jerusalem, but were also to preach to all the other nations. That was hard for the disciples, especially Peter, to understand. They thought that salvation was for the Jews only, but Jesus told them that all men could be saved if they repented and believed in His shed Blood.

QUESTIONS

1. How was the tomb sealed? How did Jesus get out of it?
2. What were the two men on the way to Emmaus talking about?
3. What did the Stranger tell them about the Scriptures?
4. When did the two men recognise the Stranger?
5. What happened when they got back to Jerusalem?
6. What instructions did Jesus give His disciples?

had said: but him they saw not.

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

³³ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

³⁴ Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

³⁵ And they told what things *were done* in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

³⁶ And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are

ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.