

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

BIBLE TEXT : Luke 24:1-48

LESSON 65 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

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,

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Women Early at the Sepulchre

1. They came prepared to anoint the body of our Lord, Luke 24:1;

Mark 16:1, 2

¹ And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

² And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

2. The stone was rolled away -- the tomb was empty, Luke 24:2-7;

Matthew 28:2-6

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Mark 16:4-6

⁴ And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

⁵ And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

John 20:1-8

¹ The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

3. The angel's message was carried to the disciples according to the angel's instructions, Luke 24:8-10;

Matthew 28:7, 8

⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

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

⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

4. The words of the women were met with unbelief, Luke 24:11, 12;

Mark 16:9-11

⁹ Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

¹⁰ And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

¹¹ And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

II Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

1. While they talked together about the crucifixion, Jesus drew near and walked with them, Luke 24:13-15.
2. The disciples did not recognise the Lord, and told Him of the crucifixion and the report of the women at the sepulchre, Luke 24:16-24.
3. Christ expounded the Scriptures to the disciples as they walked together, Luke 24:25-27.
4. Since night was near, they constrained Him to abide with them, Luke 24:28, 29.

III The Revelation of Christ in the Breaking of Bread

1. The disciples' eyes were opened and His identity was made known to them before He vanished, Luke 24:30, 31.
2. They returned to Jerusalem immediately and told the disciples, Luke 24:32-35;

Mark 16:12, 13

¹² After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

¹³ And they went and told *it* unto the residue: neither believed they them.

3. Christ appeared in the midst of the assembly of His disciples and followers, showed them His hands and feet, opened their understanding, and revealed the reason for His suffering and resurrection, Luke 24:36-48;

Zechariah 13:1

¹ In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

I Timothy 1:15

¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

I Peter 1:18, 19

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

NOTES:

The Women Early at the Sepulchre

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee (**Luke 23:55** ⁵⁵ And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.) returned to the sepulchre where He was buried. This day was the same as our Sunday and was the day following the Jewish Sabbath. They had waited from the time of Christ's burial on Friday till this early hour because it was commanded in the Law that they should rest on the Sabbath (**Luke 23:56** ⁵⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to

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

the commandment.). No doubt, as they walked, their hearts were saddened, because they expected to find in Joseph's tomb the body of their Master, which they intended to anoint. Therefore, they carried with them the spices and ointments ordinarily used in the preparation of a body for burial. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already prepared the body of our Lord for burial when it was laid in the tomb (**John 19:39, 40** ³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*. ⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.); however, this must have been hastily and imperfectly performed because of the approaching Sabbath.

The women must have been filled with amazement when they discovered that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulchre opening; and were more amazed than ever when upon entering they found that Jesus' body was gone. But in the midst of their perplexity two men in shining garments stood by them and delivered the wonderful message that has echoed and re-echoed in the Christian world down through the past twenty centuries: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen" (Luke 24:5, 6). One can scarcely imagine the effect all this had upon these who loved Jesus so much.

Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

The distance from Jerusalem to Emmaus was seven and a half miles and probably took the two disciples, one of whom was Cleopas, about two hours to cover. As they walked they talked of all that had happened, probably concerning the Last Supper and the false trial and tragic death of Jesus. They might even have discussed the conversations with Jesus when He told them of His coming death and resurrection. Christ joined them along the way, but concealed His identity and opened a conversation with them.

Jesus' question, "What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?" (Luke 24:17) was no doubt asked that they might open their hearts and tell Jesus all that was troubling them. He appeared to be a stranger to them at the time but showed an immediate interest in their saddened state. This might have ordinarily aroused their curiosity as to the identity of the questioner, "But their eyes were holden that they should not know him"; and they did not perceive that this stranger was their risen Lord and Master.

David may have had a similar experience when he wrote: "For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness" (II Samuel 22:29). God never forsakes those who love Him. These two poured out their sad hearts, and Jesus listened sympathetically and understandingly. They paid a certain tribute to the Son of God when they said that this Jesus of Nazareth "was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people." But it might be said that they did not fully realise or comprehend that He was more than a prophet, that Jesus was the Son of God -- the Incarnate Word of God.

Possibly the faith of the men had been shaken during the tragic events of the last few days; for Cleopas added, "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel" (Luke 24:21). Their words seem to imply that they might have given up the idea that Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. But the Lord spoke reassuringly to them of the prophecies concerning Himself, and their hearts were warmed by His gracious words; for when their eyes were opened, they said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

The word fools used in Luke 24:25 should be understood more

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.

as though the Master had said foolish or childish ones, and not with the severity with which it is now used in our English language. Jesus necessarily spoke to them of prophecies of Him found in the Old Testament, because that was all the Bible they had then. The great theme in the Old Testament is the coming of the Messiah and His wonderful plan of salvation, and they should have understood all that had happened better than they did.

Christ Revealed in the Breaking of Bread

When Jesus sat at meat with the two disciples, He "took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them." This was the office of the master and father of a family, and it was the manner in which Jesus had eaten with His disciples before, at least once at the Lord's Supper. These two disciples may have known of that recent night before Jesus was betrayed and the blessings received there, for at Emmaus immediately their eyes were opened and the blessed Guest was recognised. He then vanished from their sight.

Immediately that same evening (verse 29) they retraced their steps to Jerusalem to tell to His followers assembled there the glad news of Jesus' appearance. And while they were telling the group who had already begun to assemble on the first day of the week, the Lord appeared in their midst, thereby putting His seal of approval on their newly instituted day of worship. This assembling on the first day resulted in its becoming a memorial of Christ's resurrection.

The Old Testament Law, the Old Covenant, had been fulfilled in Christ and by Christ. The veil of the Temple had been rent when He died, signifying that we all may now enter into the spiritual Holy of Holies and obtain blessings that the Old Testament saints could not enjoy. The moral principles of the Law were not discarded, for they were in existence long before the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai and were now brought to a much higher plane in the teachings of the One Who came not to destroy the Law but to fulfil it. The ceremonial worship was replaced by a more spiritual worship. The penitent no longer needed to go to a certain locality or a specific building made with men's hands, to come in contact with God (**John 4:21-24** ²¹ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.); for the true worshiper is one who worships the Father in spirit and in truth.

The old Sabbath, which some who teach much false doctrine declare was instituted as a memorial of creation, was no longer observed by the Christians. The apostles and disciples continued to go into the synagogues on the Jewish Sabbath day that they might use that opportunity to make contact with the Jews assembled there to tell them of Jesus and His power to save (**Acts 14:1** ¹ And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.). But the first day of the week became the day of their worship and they kept it, as we do today, as a memorial of the New Creation under the dispensation of grace -- the completion of that stage of the plan of our redemption when Jesus arose from the dead and proved His power over death and Satan.

The first reaction of the disciples to the sudden and unexpected appearance of Jesus was one of fright and astonishment. But Jesus comforted them and removed all their

doubts and fears as He showed them the things in the Scriptures concerning Himself, explaining that all this was brought about "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations" (Luke 24:47).

QUESTIONS

1. What was the reason for the women's early visit to the sepulchre?
2. What was the message of the angels to those who sought the body of Jesus?
3. Name three who carried the news to the disciples.
4. How was the message received?
5. What was the subject of conversation of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus?
6. Was Jesus recognised by them?
7. What did Jesus do to explain these things unto them?
8. When was the Lord made known to them, and what did these two disciples immediately do?
9. Was doubt and fear still apparent at Jesus next appearance?
10. What was the message of Christ concerning the things written of Him by Moses, by the prophets, and in the Psalms?