

## Luke Study 19 Lk 24

### Introduction

Jesus predicted that he would be handed over to the Gentiles, killed, and then rise again. So far, the first two parts of this prediction have come true. Now, in the last chapter of *Luke*, the last part comes true, too. Jesus rises to life. This is amazing! So amazing that, despite all Jesus' predictions, no one at first believes it. The men don't believe the women when they tell them. The men on the road don't recognise Jesus when they see him. The disciples don't believe it's Jesus when he appears to them, thinking he's a ghost. But we can believe Jesus has risen from the dead, because the Scriptures have pointed to it, and Jesus' risen body is the proof.

### Read 23:55-24:1-12

1. On the morning of the first day of the week, what did the women do?
2. What did they find? What did they not find?
3. What happened 'while they were wondering about this'? (see Lk 9:21-22)
4. When the women tell the disciples what happened, how do the disciples react?

As soon as they can without breaking the Sabbath, the women who had prepared spices and perfumes for Jesus' body go to the tomb. But when they get there, they find the tomb is open, and the body is gone. Two men in gleaming clothes - presumably angels - appear to them and remind them of Jesus' words in 9:21-22: he would be handed over to sinners, killed, but then rise again. The women's 'wondering' (v.4) turns to 'remembering' (v.8). And so they rush back to the other disciples and tell them. But the other disciples don't believe them: it sounds like nonsense. Except to Peter, who believes the women enough to run to the tomb and see it for himself. When he sees that it's empty, he's also left 'wondering' (v.12). He doesn't yet believe, but he is on the way. The disciples are starting to believe that Jesus might be risen again.

### Read 24:13-35

5. Later that day, two of the disciples are walking to Emmaus, a nearby town, talking with each other about 'everything that had happened' (v.15).
  - a. Why don't they recognise Jesus when he starts walking with them? (v.16)
  - b. How do they summarise 'everything that had happened' when Jesus asks them about it? (vv.19-24)
  - c. Do you think they believe Jesus has risen to life or not? Why or why not?

6. How does Jesus respond to them? (vv.25-27)
7. Go back through *Luke* and look at some of the Old Testament passages Jesus has taken people to. How do they teach that the Messiah must suffer and then be glorified?
8. What makes the two disciples finally recognise Jesus?
9. By the end of the passage, do they believe Jesus has risen to life? Why or why not?

Later that day, two of the disciples are walking to Emmaus, a town near Jerusalem, and talking about everything that had happened over the last few days. When Jesus - who at this point is hiding his identity from them, probably supernaturally - asks them what has been happening, their response is telling. They acknowledge Jesus was a powerful prophet (v.19); they tell how the Jewish leaders had him crucified, but they 'had hoped' he would save Israel (and therefore presumably don't hold that hope anymore) (vv.20-21); and they admit that his body is missing and that some of their women claim to have been told by angels that Jesus is alive (vv.22-24). But they fall short of full faith that Jesus is raised. They are still at the wondering (or 'amazed,' v.22) stage of the other disciples: confused, and clearly seeing something is going on, but not yet believing.

Jesus - still in disguise - rebukes them for their unbelief. They should know from the Scriptures that Jesus would definitely rise again. And when Jesus teaches them, their 'hearts burn within them' as they see their Bible (our Old Testament) really does teach that the Messiah must die and rise again. When Jesus shows himself to them over a meal they're convinced: they believe Jesus has risen. When they go back to Jerusalem and see the other disciples, that is confirmed: Peter has now seen Jesus alive. The combination of seeing him both in the Bible and in person has convinced them that the resurrection really has happened.

Having said that, the idea of a raised physical Jesus still takes some getting used to, as the last scene makes clear.

**Read 24:36-51**

10. What happens while the disciples are 'still talking about this'?
11. How do the disciples react?
12. How does Jesus deal with their reaction? What reasons does he give them to think he really has risen from the dead?
13. What new mission does Jesus give the disciples?

14. Why do the disciples stay in Jerusalem? What does this tell us is going to happen next?

Jesus appears to all the disciples and they're scared: they think he's a ghost. So Jesus uses two things to show he really is risen from the dead. First, he demonstrates his body is physical: he asks them to touch him and eats a piece of fish. Second, he tells them again that 'the Scripture' (our Old Testament) teaches that the Christ must rise again. It is these two pieces of evidence - biblical prediction and physical evidence - that convinces the disciples Jesus is alive.

Having proved that he's alive, Jesus now gives the disciples a job: they will take this good news to 'all nations.' But in the meantime, they're to wait in Jerusalem until they have received the gift they will need to carry out this mission (the book of *Acts*, *Luke's* sequel, makes it clear this is the Holy Spirit). *Luke* ends on a note of hope, but also expectation: Jesus is raised, but now the whole world needs to hear it.

Before you pray, a couple of reflection questions:

15. How can we see Jesus in the Old Testament? How can this build our faith that he really has risen from the dead?

16. We can't physically see Jesus risen from the dead like the disciples did: Jesus has now ascended to heaven. But how can we use the accounts of those who did see him risen again to build our faith?

17. *Luke* ends with the disciples preparing for mission, now they know Jesus is alive. How can this knowledge help prepare us for mission too?

Pray.