

He Has Risen

Luke 24:1-12, 30-35
SS Lesson for 04/01/2018

Devotional Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

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Introduction

Overview and Key Verse of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the understanding of the reality of the postresurrection events of biblical history related to Jesus and how **He Has Risen**. The **study's aim** is to understand that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is crucial to the transformation of people. The **study's application** is to give assurance that Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead and to make this truth central in our message to unbelievers.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Key Verse: Luke 24:34

Saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Commentary from the Bible Knowledge Commentary

24:1-9. The first people to learn of the resurrection of Jesus were **the women** who had been faithful in following Him. They found out about the Resurrection first because of their devotion to Him. For after His death they brought more **spices** for His burial **on the first day of the week** (cf. 23:55-56). **They did not find the body** they were looking for. Instead they saw **two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning**, an obvious reference to angelic beings. These **men** reminded them of the words Jesus had spoken about His crucifixion and resurrection (9:31; 18:31-34). The women went to report to the apostles and **others** what they had seen (24:9).

24:10-12. The apostles **did not believe** the report **the women** brought them **because their words seemed... like nonsense**. This was because they had seen Jesus' death and had seen His body placed in the grave. But **Peter ran to the tomb** and found what the women had described. Still he did not understand **what had happened**.

24:13-16. Two of Jesus' followers were walking to **Emmaus**, which is **about seven miles** (northwest) **from Jerusalem**. **They were talking... about** the things **that had happened**, that is, the report that Jesus had been resurrected (vv. 19-24). When **Jesus** joined them, they did not recognize **Him**.

24:17-24. When Jesus asked them to tell Him what they were **discussing**, the men related the view about Jesus that most of the nation believed at that time. The men, **one of** whom was **Cleopas**, said they were talking **about Jesus of Nazareth**. Cleopas commented that their fellow companion must be **the only one living in all of Jerusalem** who did not **know** what had **happened**. By this question Luke got across the point that Jesus' ministry and death were known to everyone in the city and in most of the nation. The entire nation was responsible to accept the Messiah. The two men added that **the chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to... death**. Along with many others these two men thought that Jesus **was the One who was going to redeem Israel**, that is, be the Messiah and bring in the kingdom (cf. Simeon's words in 2:30 and Anna's in 2:38). They even related that they had heard a report of the Resurrection directly from **some... women**. But despite all this, **their faces** were **downcast** (24:17).

24:25-27. Jesus chided them for not understanding and believing. He explained from **Moses and all the Prophets** what had been **said** about Him. He implied that these disciples should have understood from the Old Testament what had happened.

24:28-35. It was not until after **Jesus** had broken **bread** with them that **their eyes were opened and they recognized Him**. Their experience with Jesus caused them to hurry back to **Jerusalem** (seven miles) and affirm the Resurrection to **the Eleven** and others who were meeting together. The two men now acknowledged the truth of the reports about Jesus' resurrection for they had recognized Him themselves. The disciples who were meeting together now had at least three reports of the Resurrection: the women, Peter, and Cleopas and his companion. But still they did not understand (cf. v. 38). In these two appearances—to two men (vv. 13-35) and to the gathered disciples (vv. 36-49)—Jesus taught His followers from the Old Testament the things that had been accomplished among them. It was not until after Jesus had explained from the Old Testament that the Messiah had to die that His followers began to understand what had occurred the past few days.

Commentary from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary

Our text this week is a ringing summary statement, part of which has become a common Easter response among Christians worldwide. Although almost no one speaks the "hath appeared to Simon" portion these days, the words "the Lord is risen indeed" are heard from many lips. The challenge is retaining our sense of wonder and excitement. The lead-up to this joyful proclamation started earlier in the day when two downcast disciples, only one of whom is named, unknowingly met the resurrected Jesus, who joined them on their walk to the village of Emmaus (Luke 24:13-18). They unburdened themselves of their disappointment and sorrow and then were amazed at the inspired exposition of Scripture they heard on their way. But it was not until the enigmatic stranger broke bread at their destination and then abruptly vanished that they recognized who had stirred their hearts so profoundly (vss. 30-32). Not wanting to keep this revelation to themselves for even one day, the two disciples rushed back to Jerusalem to inform the Eleven, who were gathered along with other followers of Jesus. As fast as they might have traveled, however, they did not come with breaking news, for it was those in the room who responded without hesitation, "The Lord is risen indeed." For the Emmaus disciples, it was confirmation, not the heralding of unheard tidings. Those gathered in the room added in the same breath the detail "and hath appeared to Simon." This was important to them, for as yet the risen Lord had not yet been seen by any of the other apostles. They had heard the reports of the women and had been inclined to discount these (as had the two from Emmaus). But they could not so easily dismiss Simon Peter's testimony; the Lord's early appearance to Peter was foundational in overcoming their doubts and in proclaiming the risen Christ to the world (cf. I Cor. 15:5). It is interesting that aside from the statement in our golden text, this initial appearance to Peter is not described in any of the Gospels. Many things that Jesus said and did are not recorded for us (cf. John 21:25), but what we are told is sufficient and reliable to build our faith on. The fact that Jesus would appear first to the disciple who had denied Him demonstrates His forgiving and loving approach to His own. The Emmaus disciples were not denied the opportunity to relate their own experience with the risen Lord, and they did so with what must have been the greatest eagerness and alacrity (Luke 24:35). It was as they were finishing their report that the Lord Himself suddenly appeared among them all, greeting them with a word of peace (vs. 36). We may wonder why He did not show Himself to all the disciples immediately after leaving the tomb, thus putting away all doubt at the outset. But the experience of hearing and relaying testimony must have been important. And even the personal appearance among them did not erase all doubts at first. The appearance of the risen Christ is foundational to our faith, but He wants us to rely on the sure word of testimony that He has given us.

Lesson Introduction and Background

From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

How do we find the strength to go on during the most difficult of times? We might wish we were the victim of a mere April Fool's Day joke, only to realize our problems are quite real! Many find encouragement from a proverb of English theologian and historian Thomas Fuller (1608-1661). In his *A Pisgah-Sight of Palestine and the Confines Thereof*, Fuller wrote, "It is always darkest just before the Day dawneth." Two centuries later, Irish songwriter Samuel Lover remarked that this saying had become proverbial "amongst the Irish peasantry to inspire hope under adverse circumstances." Today the same words are used by therapists, self-help gurus, and motivational speakers. "Don't give up," is their message. "Better times are ahead!" We all have experienced dark times that we thought would never end—yet they did end! The crucifixion of Jesus was such a dark time, but it was dispelled by the brightness of the resurrection.

Luke 23:54 is clear that Jesus was crucified and buried on Preparation Day, the day before the Sabbath (see also Matthew 27:62; Mark 15:42; John 19:14, 31, 42). Luke 23:56 further indicates that the women prepared "spices and perfumes" on Preparation Day so as not to violate the Sabbath. Mark 16:1 states the spices were for anointing Jesus' body, and John 19:39, 40 demonstrates the Jews' burial custom of wrapping a body in strips of linen and spices. This was not an easy task, at least in the case of Jesus, as John 19:39 reveals the use of about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

Major Theme Analysis

(Scriptural Text from the New King James Version; cross-references from the NIV)

The Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1-4)

1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

Women preparing yet an empty tomb (1-3)

Empty tomb regardless how Pilate tried to ensure Jesus stayed in the tomb (Matt 27:64-66)

64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."

66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Empty tomb because both natural and super-natural events (Matt 28:2)

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Empty tomb yet there was no doubt He was there originally (Mark 15:46-47)

46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid

Empty tomb because Jesus was dead but now is alive (Rev 1:18)

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Empty tomb because Jesus is the First and the Last who came to life again (Rev 2:8)

8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

Empty Tomb perplexion (4)

Perplexion because of doubt (Luke 24:37-39)

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

Perplexion like when Jesus ate after resurrection (John 21:7-14)

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Perplexion like when Jesus came through locked doors (John 20:26-29)

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Perplexion at the greatness of God (Luke 9:43)

43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples,

The Proclamation of the Angels (Luke 24:5-8)

5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still 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.

Seeing Angels should not include fear (5)

No fear because through the Holy Spirit we have been freed from slavery of fear (Rom 8:15)

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

No fear because God is our helper (Heb 13:6)

6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

No fear because God is our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1-3)

46 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah

No fear because our trust is in God (Heb 2:13-16)

13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

Jesus has risen (6)

Jesus has risen because He appeared to the eleven disciples (Mark 16:14)

14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Jesus has risen because He appeared to Simon (Luke 24:34)

34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

Jesus has risen because it was prophesied (Acts 2:29-32)

29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

Jesus has risen because He is the living hope (1 Peter 1:3)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Jesus has risen through the power of God (2 Cor 13:4)

4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.

Jesus was crucified (7)

Jesus was crucified at the third hour (Mark 15:25)

25 It was the third hour when they crucified him.

We can be assured that Jesus was crucified (Acts 2:36)

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Jesus was crucified because His own countrymen wanted Him crucified (1 Thess 2:14-15)

You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, 15 who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men

Because the chief priests and rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death (Luke 24:20)

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;

Because the Roman soldiers verified it (John 19:31-35)

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

We will see Jesus again (7-8)

We will see Jesus again because He will come back the way He left (Acts 1:11)

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

We will see Jesus again in Heaven (Mark 14:25)

25 "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

We will see Jesus again and rejoice (John 16:22)

22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

We will see Jesus again coming down from Heaven (1 Thess 4:16-17)

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

We will see Jesus again because all will see Him (Rev 1:7)

7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

The Disbelief of the Disciples (Luke 24:9-12)

9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Disbelief that shouldn't stop us from witnessing to others about Jesus' resurrection (9-10)

Witnessing to others started with the scattering of the disciples (Acts 11:19-21)

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Witness to others because Jesus commanded it (Matt 28:18-20)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Witness to others through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Witness to others through teaching (2 Tim 2:2)

2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Disbelief that causes doubt (11)

Doubt because of a lack of faith (Matt 14:31)

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Doubt because of a lack of understanding (John 10:24)

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Doubt causes one to be unstable (James 1:6-8)

6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Doubt causes one to be troubled in his heart (Luke 24:38)

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Disbelief that should turn to joy (12)

Joy because of sharing in the fellowship of Jesus (Phil 3:9-11)

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Joy because of salvation through the resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 3:20-21)

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Joy because of the revealing of Jesus' glory (1 Peter 4:13)

13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Joy because of the hope provided through Jesus' resurrection (Rom 15:13)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joy because Jesus joyfully died and rose for us (Heb 12:2)

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Joy because Jesus is praised and honored for His resurrection (1 Peter 1:6-7)

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

The Appearance of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:30-35)

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Jesus experienced through His abiding in us (30)

Jesus abiding in us means that we also abide in His love (John 15:9-10)

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

Jesus abiding in us means that we can be fruitful (John 15:4-6)

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Jesus abiding in us so that we may be confident and unashamed when Jesus returns (1 John 2:28)

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

Jesus abiding in us so that we can walk as He walked (1 John 2:6)

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Jesus abiding in us means we have confessed Jesus as the Son of God (1 John 4:15-16)

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Jesus realized through spiritual eyes (31)

Spiritual eyes that see God at work (2 Kings 6:17)

17 And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Spiritual eyes that see because God has put His salve in them (Rev 3:18)

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Spiritual eyes that see the wonderful things in God's Word (Ps 119:18)

18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Spiritual eyes that have been enlightened (Eph 1:18)

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Jesus realized through inner strength (32)

Spiritual power in the inner being (Eph 3:16-19)

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

God renews the inner being (2 Cor 4:16)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

God's word brings joy to the inner being (Rom 7:22)

22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law

Inner being that God created (Ps 139:13)

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Jesus realized through the assembling of His saints (32)

Saints assembled to encourage one another (Heb 10:23-25)

23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Saints assembled in the presence of God (Matt 18:20)

20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Saints assembled for fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Saints assembled for prayer (Acts 1:14)

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Jesus realized through witnessing (34-35)

Witnessing about Jesus and Jesus only (1 Cor 2:1-3)

2 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

Witnessing about the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15)

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, NIV

Witnessing about the mystery of Christ in God's Word (Eph 3:3-6)

3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Witnessing about Jesus using revelations from God (Matt 16:17)

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

Conclusion and Other Thoughts

Concluding Thoughts from Bob Deffinbaugh

Background (23:54–24:12)

54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. 55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. 56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

24:1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women 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 wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” 8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The women had no part in the burial of our Lord, which was done by Joseph of Arimathea (23:50-53), assisted by Nicodemus (John 20:38-39). They did manage to watch the burial of the body of Jesus and to mark in their minds the exact place where Jesus was placed. This was more than just knowing the correct tomb; it was knowing where the body lay in that tomb.¹⁴¹ In the providence of God, the women were not able to return to the tomb earlier than on the first day of the week, the “third day,” since the evening was rapidly approaching at the time of Jesus’ burial, and since the next day was the Sabbath. The women procured the necessary spices and had them on hand, but could do nothing with them until the day following the Sabbath. They waited until early in the morning, and then went out to the tomb. So that it could not be said that the women merely forgot the burial place of Jesus and went to the wrong tomb, Luke (along with the other gospel writers) reports that the angels informed the women that they had come to the right place, seeking Jesus, but that He was not there (Luke 24:5-7; cf. also Matthew 28:5-6; Mark 16:6). Matthew tells us that one angel invited the women to see the place where He once lay (28:6).

The angels gently rebuked the women for seeking the body of Jesus on the third day, when He had told them while still in Galilee that He would be rejected, put to death, and rise again on the third day (Luke 9:22). Jesus was alive. Why were they looking for the living among the dead? The angels’ words joggled the minds of the women, and they remembered that this was exactly what Jesus had told them, long before His death. They now saw that His death, as well as His resurrection, was a necessity, and also a prophecy which had to be fulfilled. For them to be seeking for His body was then an act of unbelief—a loving act of unbelief, but unbelief nonetheless.

In Matthew and Mark, the angels and Jesus both instructed the women to return to Jesus’ disciples to tell them that He was alive and that He would meet them in Galilee. Luke only tells us that they went to the disciples and when they told their story, the disciples refused to believe them, thinking that these “emotional women” were simply out of their heads, totally hysterical, and overcome with their grief. Peter did go out to the tomb (there seem to have been numerous trips to the tomb that day), and he found everything as the women had described it, but still he was not convinced. He simply went home puzzled.

But the puzzling thing to me is that no disciple seems to have seen an angel in the tomb that day. The women saw the angel(s), but not the disciples. Even the guards who were posted at the tomb saw the angel who rolled away the stone(s) and were frightened nearly to death (Matthew 28:2-4). But not so much as one disciple? Why not? Why did Jesus not make it easy for the disciples to believe He had risen from the dead? Why did He delay in revealing Himself to the men, when the women were privileged to see Him sooner? I believe the reason may be suggested by an earlier incident, which was the first realization of Jesus’ identity by His disciples at the time of His transfiguration. Jesus first asked His disciples who men thought Him to be. Then He asked them who they thought He was. Peter responded that He was the Christ, the Messiah, to which Jesus responded,

“Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17b).

Jesus did not want to hurry the process, to rush the conclusion as to who He was. He wanted His disciples to be absolutely convinced of His identity. Fundamental to this was an understanding from the Scriptures that His own prophecies about His rejection, death, and resurrection were consistent with the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets. Let us now turn to the account of the appearance of our Lord to the two men on the road to Emmaus to observe more closely the way in which Jesus revealed not only His resurrection, but His personal presence.

The Recognition of the Lord Jesus (24:28-35)

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus acted as though He would go on. Why? I think it was to provide the two men with the opportunity to respond to what He had been teaching. Jesus had begun with a rebuke, and His teaching had cast a whole new light on the Old Testament prophecies. How would they respond? Did they wish to reject it? If so, they would gladly have let Him go on His way. But they urged Him to stay with them. They wanted more. They desired to be with Him, even though they did not yet realize who He was. Humanly speaking, had they not urged Him to stay, they would not have had their eyes open to recognize who He was. What joy lay ahead for those who would sup with the Savior.

I have come to the conclusion that there was no mysterious or mystical revelation of Jesus in the breaking of the bread. I am not sure these men saw the “nail-scarred hands.” They surely do not say so, nor does Luke. The reason they recognized Jesus was because “their eyes were opened,” their blindness was removed. It was not that which Jesus did in the breaking of the bread which was so convincing, but the work of the Spirit, who convinced the men of the meaning of the Scriptures and thus enabled them to see Christ for who He was. Jesus did take the lead in the breaking of the bread, which would seem to be unusual, but this, in and of itself, is not the key to the opening of the eyes of these two men.

It was during the breaking of the bread that the identity of this “stranger” was made known to the two men. Jesus immediately disappeared. They immediately returned to Jerusalem to report to the rest what they had experienced, only to be told that they already knew Jesus was alive, because He had appeared to Peter in the time of their absence.

(Adapted from URL:<https://bible.org/seriespage/76-heartbreak-heartburn-luke-2354-2435>)

Concluding Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Although many Christians say “He is risen” to one another only at Easter, there are some churches where Christians greet each other regularly with “He is risen!” This practice reminds them that the body of Jesus is missing from the tomb for a reason: because he is risen now and forever. This should be remembered daily, not just at Easter. The resurrection of Christ has daily implications, consisting of both blessings and responsibilities, for all believers.

Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary

1. When Jesus is our priority, we will not procrastinate or be slothful (Luke 24:1)
2. When things do not go as planned, trust God's plan (vss. 2-3)
3. Jesus brings clarity to replace confusion (vss. 4-6)
4. When we believe in Jesus, we can be confident that He will do what He promised (vss. 7-8)
5. We must have the confidence to share the good news about Jesus, even when others do not believe (vss. 9-12)
6. Time spent with Jesus is a blessing (vss. 30-35)