

# *The Gospel of Luke*

## *Lesson 42: Luke 24:1-53*

The promise had been given: “And the third day He will rise again” (Luke 18:33, NKJV), but like the others, she failed to remember. Overwhelmed by her circumstances, Mary Magdalene was overtaken by emotion, focused on what seemed wrong and out of place, unable to see the proof before her very eyes (John 20:11-15). What she did not realize was that He was close enough to touch (vv.16-17).

Perhaps like she who beheld the stone, saw the empty sepulcher, looked upon the folded linen cloths and witnessed the shining ones, we should ask ourselves whether we have overlooked the evidence God has placed in our path to assure us that His promises will prevail. Perhaps, like Mary, we need only to look up (Mark 16:4, John 20:16).

### *Read Luke 24:1-12.*

1. Before the break of dawn, the women went forth carrying “*the spices which they had prepared*” (v.1). What obstacle would they encounter once they arrived? (Mark 16:3)
2. Now read Matthew 27:62-66. What waited for them at the tomb of which they were unaware? In addition, what had Pilate done to secure the stone? (v.66)
3. The stone represents an obstacle—a barrier, an obstruction, a blockage, problem, difficulty, hindrance, or complication that can leave one feeling discouraged and defeated. What does the stone represent in your life? If it could be moved what lies on the other side?
4. How did God rectify the “problem” before they arrived? (Matthew 28:2) How does Mark 16:4 speak into your current situation?

5. Read John 20:11-13. Upon her arrival, what false assumption(s) did Mary make? What was she focused upon? How did this lead to her emotional state?
  
6. What did Mary fail to see? (v.12)
  
7. What had she, along with the other disciples, forgotten? (See Luke 9:22, 11:30, 13:32, 18:33, 24:7, and John 2:19, 16:16.) Consider who *did* remember Christ's words.
  
8. Return to Luke 24. Those who were with Mary Magdalene were equally perplexed, prompting the angel's inquiry, "*Why do you seek the living among the dead*" (v.5). How did the women approach Christ?

Do you approach Christ as if He is still in the tomb—disconnected, bound and lifeless, or as if He is the Living God—present, limitless and active?

9. What did they lack? (Hebrews 11:1)
  
10. Turn to John 20 and continue reading verses 14-18. Initially, why might Mary have failed to recognize Christ's voice?

11. The risen Christ appeared to her before all others. How do Jeremiah 29:13 and Proverbs 8:17 apply?
  
12. Read Matthew 28:9-10. Why did the women react to Christ in this way? (v.10) What instructions were given them?
  
13. Return to Luke. How did the disciples react to their testimony? (v.11) Why?
  
14. Why might Peter and John have been receptive to their report? (John 20:1-10)

*Read Luke 24, verses 13-35.*

15. Describe the two men's mental and emotional state. Why do you believe Christ chose to draw near to them? Why might Christ have restrained their eyes?
  
16. Of what did they accuse Christ in verse 18?
  
17. Why do you believe Christ sought to hear their rendering of the account? (vv.19-24)

What does this reveal about the type of relationship Christ seeks to have with His followers?

18. For what are they rebuked? Ultimately, what were they questioning? (vv.25-26)

19. How did Christ choose to comfort them as they traveled? (vv.27, 32) What resulted? (v.32)

How does Romans 10:17 apply?

20. If you are able, “*beginning at Moses*” (Genesis), list every direct and indirect reference to the suffering Messiah.

21. Return to Luke. Why did they desire the Man’s company? Would Christ have stayed if they had not invited Him in? Explain.

22. What was it that caused their hearts to burn? Describe the power of the Scriptures in a man’s life.

23. How did Christ first choose to reveal Himself to these men—through hearing or seeing? What lesson lies therein for us?

24. Luke 24:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:5 reveal that Christ appeared to Peter before his fellow disciples. (See also Mark 16:7.) What does this reveal about Christ's initiative and care for those who are dejected?

*Keep reading in Luke 24, verses 36-45.*

25. How did the disciples react to Christ's sudden appearance? (vv.37-38)

26. According to John 20:19 and Mark 16:12-14, why did Christ appear to the disciples in Jerusalem before meeting them in Galilee?

27. Return to Luke. What actions did Christ take to assure His followers? (vv.39, 40, 43, 44-45)

Why do you believe Christ retained the marks of His suffering?

28. Luke 24:41 states that although the disciples handled the risen Christ, some “*still did not believe for joy*”, but instead, “*marveled*”. *Marveled (thaumazo)*, “literally refers to the feeling you get when you are cast into a maze—that is, when you follow one path only to find a dead end, then turn around to try to find your way to the end.”<sup>i</sup>

What, then, kept them from feeling joyful?

29. Read John 20:24-29, noting the details of their meeting in verse 26. What had changed since Christ’s initial appearance?

30. Describe the difference between doubt and unbelief.

31. What conditions did Thomas set forth to believe in the risen Christ? Is this wrong? How do believers and unbelievers do this alike?

32. What emphasis does this passage place on Christ’s personal concern and patience toward those who are doubtful or unbelieving? What measures was He willing to take to sure up Thomas’ faith? (Also consider John 21:14.)

*Return to Luke 24 and read verses 46-53.*

33. What is a witness?

34. What were the disciples to communicate to all peoples? (See also Matthew 28:19-20.)  
Can these things be accomplished with mere words?

35. Are all believers charged with the same responsibility? Why or why not? Are you sharing  
and exhibiting the Gospel in your Jerusalem? How?

36. For what must the disciples wait? (v.49)

In closing, read Acts 1:4-11 and Mark 16:19-20.

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<sup>1</sup> (Card, Michael. 2011. Luke: The Gospel of Amazement. Downers Grove, IL. Intersity Press, 265.)