

April 9, 2023

“Disciples Believe the Resurrection”
Lesson 1

Luke 24:13-27, 30-31

Intro

Today’s passage looks at the resurrection of Jesus. One lens that is helpful to see this event through is the lens of revolution, here meaning the change from one way of thinking and living to a new way. Jesus’ resurrection changed perspectives on death and life.

The verses we look at here follow directly after last week’s verses in Luke 24, where the women found the empty tomb, told the disciples what they had seen, with Peter and John running to the tomb to see for themselves.

Read Luke 24:13-27, 30-31

1. vs. 13: The two men in this verse were disciples of Jesus
 - Luke 24:9 tells that the women told “the eleven...and all the rest” (of His disciples)
 - This verse begins with “two of them”—the “them” referring to the disciples of 24:9
 - This journey happens on the very day—“the same day”
 - They are likely traveling home after the Passover celebrations
2. vs. 14: They have a 3-4 hour walk to get home, so they have a lot of time to reflect and talk
 - So much happened in the previous week
 - Jesus’ arrest, the trial, His crucifixion, and burial
 - Now the women have reported that the tomb is empty
 - They are surely going over everything, trying to make sense of it all
3. vs. 15: The word for “discussed” here is used elsewhere by Luke to indicate strong debate
 - They are having an in-depth review of the details and their implications
 - The phrase “Jesus himself” is used to show it was truly Jesus, and not any other person
4. vs. 16: The two men “were kept from recognizing” Jesus
 - This could be because God obscured their vision in some way
 - It could be that Jesus’s appearance or clothing was different from before
 - It could be they were so engaged in their conversation that they didn’t notice closely
 - They didn’t believe Jesus had raised from the dead—didn’t expect to see Him
 - In John 20 and 21, others of Jesus’ followers also failed to recognize Him
5. vs. 17: Jesus knows everything—He’s not seeking information from them here
 - This question is designed to start a conversation
6. vs. 18: Luke identifies one of the two, a man name Cleopas
 - It’s possible he was still alive at the time this gospel was written
 - That would mean the audience would recognize his name and his story of what happened

Cleopas' response to Jesus' question is actually a little funny
He's basically saying, "Are you serious? You don't know what's been going on? If that's the case, you're the only one in all of Jerusalem who doesn't!"

7. vs. 19: The question and answer session continues

Jesus says "What things?", which invites the two to continue the conversation

The two respond with two elements

"About Jesus of Nazareth"

This is how Jesus is described 15x in the NT

In Acts, this is how the apostles introduced their authority to do miracles

"In the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 3:3-8, 4:8-11)

"He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed"

Jesus' words and miracles showed that He was from God

The people considered Him to be at least a prophet

8. vs. 20: A key part of this story is that "the chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him."

Jesus prophesied that this would happen to Him

Most of the Jews expected the Messiah to be a king to overthrow Rome and free the people

The did not expect a Messiah who would be arrested, sentenced to death, and crucified

9. vs. 21: The two disciples express two significant things in this verse

First, they echo the idea that Jesus would "redeem" Israel

As with the verse before, their idea was a political deliverance from Rome

These two, like many others, saw Jesus as God's Messiah—rightly so

They are downhearted, as this hope they had has not come to pass

Second, they note that "it is the third day since all this took place"

This comment indicates they were likely aware of what Jesus told the twelve

Jesus told them He would rise again on the third day (Luke 9:22)

These two are heading home, thinking that what was promised didn't happen

10. vs. 22-23: They recount that the women found the empty tomb and told all the other disciples

These two heard the story themselves from the women

11. vs. 24: They finish their account by noting that Peter and John (not so named) when to check the tomb

Their account confirmed what the women said

Two separate groups report the same facts—the tomb is empty

12. vs. 25: Jesus calls them out for being "foolish" and "slow to believe"

Proverbs tells us to call out the folly of fools in Prov. 13:16

He rebukes them for being slow to believe when they have had so much evidence

They have heard Jesus teaching

They have heard the testimony of the women and of Peter and John

They have seen and heard of Jesus' miracles

They have the OT prophets which speak about the Messiah (Isaiah 53, Daniel 7)

There has been more than enough "proof" for them to accept Jesus' resurrection

13. vs. 26: Jesus asks a rhetorical question to which the answer is an obvious “yes”

The Messiah had to suffer before entering His glory

Jesus spoke about this in Luke’s gospel in chapter 9, 17, and 18

Matthew and Mark’s gospels also show Jesus telling His disciples about this
His suffering and death were the only way salvation could come to humanity

14. vs. 27: Jesus then uses the OT to explain everything it said about Him

He uses Moses (the Torah), likely Gen. 3:15 and Deut. 18:15

He uses the Prophets (Nevi’im in Hebrew), likely Is. 7 and 9, Ezek. 34, and Mal. 3

Luke doesn’t refer to the third section (Ketuvim in Hebrew), referring to the rest of the OT

Using the first three letters (T, N, K) and adding vowels we get *Tanekh*

This word describes the entirety of the Old Testament

In vs. 28-29, the two invite Jesus to stay with them for the night, and eat with them. It doesn’t appear that they yet recognize who He was. It was an act of kindness and hospitality they offered.

15. vs. 30: Instead of one of the two serving the meal to Jesus, He takes the role of host on Himself

He “gave thanks, broke it (the bread), and began to give it to *them*”

This action reminds us of his actions at the Last Supper

16. vs. 31: The action of vs. 30 caused them to recognize Jesus

“Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight”

The two were sad before, but now they are glad; in vs. 32 their hearts “burned” (with joy)

In following verses, they return to Jerusalem to tell the others what they experienced

Notice that Jesus just disappears

He has a physical body than eats and walks, and then he disappears

The rules for the physical body seem more fluid after the resurrection

Application: In the intro, the idea of revolution/change was brought up. The two travelers in today’s verses experienced such a revolution. Their sadness was turned to joy after meeting the resurrected Jesus. It brought enthusiasm and changed their plans/priorities. They were corrected when Jesus used Scripture to point to the plan of Christ’s resurrection. This event changed their lives, as it also must change ours.

Prayer: Father God, Thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins, and for His resurrection from the dead which changed our destinies forever. Help us to be better readers and followers of Your Word, so we can reach our world with the truth about who You are. In Jesus’ name, Amen.