

POWER HOUR

4/20/2025

Lesson Text:
Luke 24:32-49

Background Scripture:
Luke 24:1-31

Devotional Reading:
1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
Ephesians 1:17-23

“JESUS FULFILLS THE SCRIPTURES”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.”* Luke 24:44 NLT

Time: about A.D. 30

Place: Emmaus, Jerusalem

Luke 24:32-49 NLT

32 They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, 34 who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.” 35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. 36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 37 But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! 38 “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? 39 Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” 40 As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he ate it as they watched. 44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. 47 It was also written that this message

would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' 48 You are witnesses of all these things. 49 "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

INTRODUCTION

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He blessed the supper meal in their home. At that late hour, they returned to Jerusalem, found the disciples, and told of the visible evidence of Jesus' resurrection that they had seen. Jesus Himself then entered the room. He quieted the fears of the disciples, and He answered their doubts by pointing to the physical evidence. He invited them to touch Him, and then He ate a piece of fish to convince them that He was literally and physically with them. Jesus then proceeded to teach the disciples about what had happened. His death and resurrection had fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. The disciples were thus equipped to be witnesses to the world that in Jesus Christ is forgiveness of sins.

1. A verbal witness (Luke 24:32-35).

The context of the lesson text is provided in verses 13-31. The ones who returned to Jerusalem were the two disciples who had encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus. One was named Cleopas (vs. 18), but the other is not named. They hastily made their way to Jerusalem to report their experience to the Eleven. Simon Peter had seen the resurrected Jesus in the meantime and informed his colleagues. The verbal witness of the two affirmed what Peter already knew. They were totally convinced that they had been with Jesus. It seems that at least some of the others still had doubts.

2. A visual witness (Luke 24:36-43).

Note the mixed signal that the disciples received. Jesus said, "Peace be unto you" (vs. 36), and yet His sudden and miraculous appearance was very startling. Discuss what the disciples thought they saw. One commentator writes, "They must have felt they were viewing some spiritual form of their resurrected Lord" (*Falwell and Hindson, eds., The Liberty Commentary, Thomas Nelson*).

Jesus comforted His disciples by giving them physical evidence of His resurrection (vss. 38-40). Refer to I John 3:2, which tells us that we will be like Him, and Philippians

3:21, where we are told that our bodies will be changed to be like His glorious body. The resurrection body that Jesus presented to His disciples was a prototype of the kind of body we will have someday, a body of real flesh and bones. Read also I Corinthians 15:20-44. Explain the meaning of Luke 24:41. It seems the disciples thought that what they were seeing was just too good to be true. Jesus' ability to eat food was offered as additional evidence that His body was real.

3. An interpretive witness (Luke 24:44-47).

Now that Jesus had proved the reality of His resurrection to all, He went on to explain what all of this meant. Much of what Jesus had told His disciples had previously not been comprehended. Emphasize Jesus' linkage of Himself to prophetic Scripture from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. Note also that Jesus had used the Scriptures throughout His ministry (cf. Matt. 4:1-10).

Discuss Luke 24:45. The Living Word opened the written Word for the disciples. Refer to I Corinthians 2:14, which states that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." No one can comprehend the riches of God's Word without divine help. Refer back to Luke 24:32, where the two disciples said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" We should ask for God's help in understanding His Word.

The concept of a suffering Messiah had been hard for the disciples to grasp. In Luke 24:46 Jesus helped them understand this from a scriptural perspective.

The idea of a Gentile ministry was also new to the Jewish disciples. Read Genesis 12:3, which records God's promise to bless all the nations of the earth through Abraham. God's plan of redemption was unfolding. The offer of remission of sins is for the whole world!

4. A promise to witnesses (Luke 24:48-49).

Read Acts 1:8. The disciples had been witnesses, and they were to bear witness. They had seen Christ's death and had seen the resurrected Jesus. But before they could go into the world as witnesses, they would need the promised Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised the "Comforter," the "Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17).

The instructions recorded in Luke 24:49 were specific and directed to a specific group of people, namely, the disciples. Present-day Christians need not tarry in Jerusalem, for the promise that Jesus gave to His disciples was fulfilled at Pentecost

(Acts 2:1-4). However, the Holy Spirit continues to empower Jesus' followers to spread the gospel.

POINTS TO PONDER

All believers can reflect on how the Holy Spirit has witnessed to them (Luke 24:32). Believers should be eager to tell others about how they have met God and now have a changed life (vss. 33-35).

Jesus has promised to be with those who hold Him dear (Luke 24:36; cf. Heb. 13:5). As much as Christians talk about God's ability to intervene in human affairs, it is startling when He does (Luke 24:37-38).

We cannot physically touch Jesus today, but we know that He is real (vss. 39-43). No matter how much we say we believe in Jesus, it is our response to the Bible that demonstrates our faith (vss. 44-48).

Sometimes it is necessary to patiently wait for God's guidance in a matter before us (vs. 49).

CONCLUSION

Jesus' death paid the penalty for sin, but a dead Savior would be no Savior at all. Jesus died to gain victory over sin and death. The resurrection proved that Jesus' redemptive purpose had been accomplished.

Two disciples brought their report to the Eleven in Jerusalem that Jesus was indeed alive. As they were telling of their encounter, Jesus Himself appeared in their midst. He opened their understanding to Old Testament Scripture pertaining to Him. He told them that they were witnesses and that soon they would receive power from on high.

Nearly two thousand years have passed since Jesus revealed Himself and His purpose to those first disciples. We too are His witnesses, and we have the responsibility and the privilege of carrying out His program of world evangelism through the power of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION(S)

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to present substantial evidence of His resurrection to His disciples?
2. When did the two Emmaus disciples recognize Jesus?

3. Why were the disciples in Jerusalem so excited when the two from Emmaus arrived?
4. When Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples, what was their first reaction?
5. Why did Jesus point the disciples to His hands and His feet?
6. Why did Jesus eat food in the presence of His disciples?
7. What Bible lesson did Jesus teach to His disciples when He appeared to them?
8. Why did Jesus' death and resurrection make the Old Testament understandable to the disciples?
9. What message were the disciples to take to all nations?
10. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"The Wedding Feast of the Lamb"*

Lesson Text: **Revelation 19:5-10**

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