

CAPITOL STUDIES

APRIL 23, 2025 • WEEK 15



LUKE FOR LEGISLATORS

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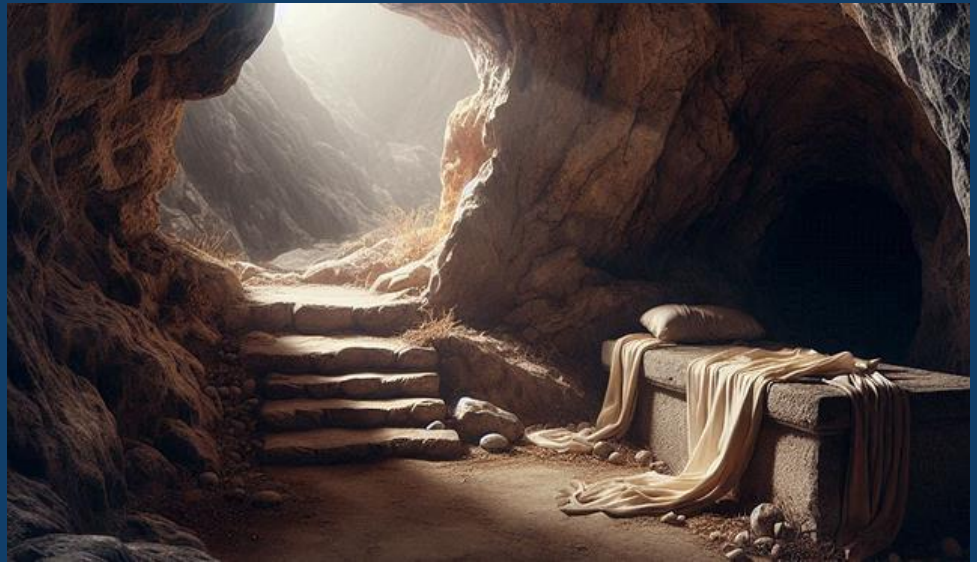
Theme Verse

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to **save** that which was **lost**.



On the Emmaus Road



BUT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” ⁸And they remembered His words, ⁹and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.... ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened. – Luke 24:1-8,12¹

Arin Hess

Pastor Arin Hess

Chaplain, Capitol Studies



INTRODUCTION

“When the first flowers of spring bloomed in our yard, my 5-year-old son waded into a patch of daffodils. He noticed some debris from plants that had expired months before and remarked, ‘Mom, when I see something dead, it reminds me of Easter because Jesus died on the cross.’ I replied, ‘When I see something alive—like the daffodils—it reminds me that Jesus came back to life!’

“One reason we know Jesus rose from the grave is that, according to the gospel of Luke, He approached two travelers headed to Emmaus 3 days after His crucifixion. Jesus walked with them; He ate dinner with them; He even gave them a lesson in Old Testament prophecy (24:15-27)... Jesus conquered the grave—He had risen from the dead. As a result, the pair returned to Jerusalem and told the disciples, ‘The Lord is risen indeed!’ (v. 34).

“If Jesus had not come back to life, our faith as Christians would be pointless, and we would still be under the penalty of our sin (1 Cor. 15:17). However, the Bible tells us that Jesus ‘was raised to life for our justification’ (Rom. 4:25 NIV). Today, we can be right with God because Jesus is alive!”²

I. DISCUSSIONS

Luke 24:13-16

And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

These followers of Jesus “had so much to discuss—the treachery of Judas and his subsequent suicide, the plots and guilt of the Sanhedrin, the weakness of Herod and Pilate, the terrible crime of Calvary, and, today, rumors of Christ’s resurrection and the solid fact of an empty tomb.”³ All of it seemed impossible. Jesus had died, and with His death, their hopes and dreams had also died. They could not think of anything else. Perhaps that was one of the reasons they did not recognize their fellow traveler, but it is also obvious that Jesus did not want them to recognize Him yet.

II. QUESTIONS

Luke 24:17-18

And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?”



When Jesus questioned what they were talking about, the stunned disciples stopped walking. How could anyone not know what had happened in Jerusalem? One of these disciples was Cleopas. Church tradition says that Cleopas was an uncle of Jesus, the brother of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. John 19:25 includes "Mary, the wife of Clopas," as one of the women who stood with Jesus' mother by the cross. So, it is plausible that Jesus' uncle and aunt were these two disciples returning to their home after a tumultuous Passover time in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:19-21

And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."

Jesus graciously asked questions and let the two travelers share their hearts and hurts. "How patient our Lord is with us as He listens to us tell Him what He already knows (Rom. 8:34)."⁴ They knew Jesus was a mighty prophet and had placed their hope in Him as the Messiah who would redeem Israel. That hope had been shattered. This was not the Savior they expected. They were disillusioned and grief-stricken. As the Old Testament reminds us, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick" (Proverbs 13:12).

The mention of the "third day" might suggest that they had heard Jesus, or others, speak of His rising from the dead on the third day. But looking at Jesus' ensuing conversation, it does not seem that Cleopas remembered or believed the prophets' declarations or Jesus' promises. It is more likely that Cleopas did not understand how Jesus could not know about the crucifixion since that was all everyone had been talking about for the last three days.

Luke 24:22-24

"But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

This couple was "so depressed and so negative in their confusion that it was beyond their capacity to make the obvious connection. If you have ever been depressed or tried to help someone who is depressed, you know that such people are amazingly resourceful in finding reasons not to take comfort in anything you say to them. They are determined to hear everything as bad news. And that is exactly what these two did with the news of the empty tomb. To them, the empty tomb compounded the tragedy, for they thought someone had stolen the body, adding insult to injury. So the good news was bad news!"⁵





III. ANSWERS

Luke 24:25-27

And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

"How typical of the Lord. He based everything on the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God. His first and final court of appeal was the Bible."⁶ "The same Scriptures that spoke about a *glorious* Messiah also spoke about a *suffering* Messiah. Jesus did not deny that the Scriptures foretold a time of glory when Messiah would bring worldwide peace: He explained that *before* that took place, however, Messiah had come to suffer."⁷

"Jesus' knowledge of His followers is tender and personal. As the Psalmist wrote, 'You know when I sit and when I rise up; you understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down; you are intimately acquainted with all my ways' (Psalm 139:2, 3). We may feel insignificant and alone, but when we see Jesus fresh from the cosmic trauma of death and resurrection monitoring the footsteps and heartbeats of a despairing couple, we know that we too are known and loved."⁸

IV. REVELATIONS

Luke 24:28-31

And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

What a blessing for them that they were given to hospitality! What they would have missed had they not been! This is a good reminder of the Scriptural command which says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2). As is often the case, when the two gave, much more was given back to them. "Many believe that the moment of recognition came when, as he broke the bread, they saw His nail-pierced hands. That may well have been. The breaking of bread in Jesus' life, for example in the feeding of the 5,000 and at the Passover table, was 'an inimitable gesture of self-revelation.'"⁹ "The Greek expression... translated 'their eyes were opened and they recognized Him,' given the context, could be rendered, 'their eyes were *completely* opened' and 'they came to *fully comprehend* Him.'"¹⁰



Luke 24:32

They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”

“The more Jesus opened the Word, the faster their pulses raced. The stranger had established that suffering and death were not obstacles to Jesus’ being Messiah, and in fact made Jesus’ claim to be Messiah more credible and compelling. The real Messiah had to suffer! Their confusion and depression melted like frost before the sun. The Scriptures were alive to the couple as never before.... [Perhaps] they were divinely kept from recognizing Christ so they would base their understanding of the Resurrection squarely on the Scripture and not on experience.”¹¹

Luke 24:33-35

And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

The two made the seven-mile walk again that day. They had exciting news to share. But before they could speak, the eleven disciples exclaimed, “Jesus is really alive! Simon saw Him!” They, too, needed to share the greatest news of all! Can you imagine the interchange as Cleopas and his wife interject, “We know! We know! He walked with us and talked with us!” “The best evidence that we have understood the Bible and met the living Christ is that we have something exciting to share with others.”¹² With whom have you shared the Good News?

CONCLUSION

“What grief [the two Emmaus travelers] would have been spared if they had only known and believed God’s Word to begin with. If we find ourselves hurting and despairing and do not find that Scripture speaks to our condition, it is not because the Bible has failed us, but because we do not know it well enough. We cannot be profoundly comforted by that which we do not know. We need to study our Bible with an eye to our Savior, because everything to do with our salvation and shalom [peace] is ‘yes’ in Christ.”¹³

The life-giving, energizing truth is that Christ suffered and died for our sins “according to the Scriptures.” And then, on the third day, he rose from the dead “according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). “Surprise, Cleopas! Surprise, Mary! Surprise, citizens of Emmaus! Surprise, world! *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*”¹⁴



He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

Alfred H. Ackley, 1933



Chaplain Arin Hess

FOOTNOTES

1. All Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, 1995 Update.
2. Jennifer Benson Schuldt, *Our Daily Bread*, March 31, 2013.
- 3, 6. John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospel of Luke: An Expository Commentary*, Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009.
- 4, 12. Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Volume 1, Victor Books, 1996, pg. 278-279.
- 5, 8, 11, 13, 14. R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth*, Crossway Books, 1998, pg. 406-411.
7. Will Varner in *Israel My Glory*, April/May 1987, pg. 6-8.
9. David Gooding, *According to Luke*, Eerdmans, 1987, pg. 353.
10. Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on Luke*, Zondervan, 2012, pg. 523.



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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meeting during the
109th Legislature's
First Session

SENATORS

6:45 – 7:45 A.M.
Wednesdays
Capitol Office #1004

STAFF

12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
Wednesdays
NE State Office Building
Morrill Room