

HOPE RESTORED Sunday School- March 31, 2013

Unifying Topic: THE LORD HAS RISEN INDEED

Lesson Text

I. Walking To Emmaus (Luke 24:13-21)

II. Jesus Discloses His Identity (Luke 24:28-35)

The Main Thought: And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. (Luke 24:31), KJV).

Unifying Principle: Sometimes humans are caught up in their sense of gloom and despair. How can we be encouraged to see and take advantage of the good news surrounding us? Jesus opened the eyes of two followers he encountered on the road to Emmaus, and they recognized that Jesus had risen.

Lesson Aim: To help students understand that Jesus' presence, while not physical, is revealed among us and within us in the Lord's Supper and through the teaching of Scripture.

Life Aim: To challenge students to identify with the travelers on the road to Emmaus in order to raise their awareness of the places Jesus meets them on their personal journeys.

24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

24:16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

24:28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

24:29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

24:30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

24:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

24:35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

HISTORY:

Chapter 24:1-12 THE RESURRECTION—THE FIRST APPEARANCE

The first day of the week, very early in the morning Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women came to the tomb of Jesus expecting to anoint His body with the spices they had brought. The women strictly obeyed the observance of the Sabbath which caused them to do nothing to Jesus' body after His death. Jesus was in the grave on the Sabbath. He was dead; therefore, the law and its observances had no authority over Him. However, the women came after the Sabbath, early in the morning. The stone that had been sealed by the Roman guards was rolled away from the tomb. The stone had not been rolled back for the benefit of Jesus, but for the witnesses to the resurrection. When Jesus arose, He was in His resurrection body, the heavenly body of the spiritual dimension, and the spiritual dimension has no physical bounds. But the witnesses needed to enter the tomb and see the truth. Upon seeing this, they went in and found not the Lord's body which left them puzzled. However, they did see two men arrayed in dazzling robes in or beside the tomb which caused the women to be afraid and thereby

bowing their faces to the ground. The men were angelic beings saying unto them: *"Why seek ye the living among the dead? he is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."* The angels proclaimed the glorious news which made them remember. It finally clicked with them and they remembered Jesus' Words. The women told the 11 disciples what had occurred at the tomb and of the conversation with the angels. Of course the men did not believe the women for it sounded like nonsense or idle tales to them. As if to say, this would happen and the men don't know anything about it first? Well the disciples were always confused about the prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection. They would not accept His words literally at face value, so why believe the women! But Peter had to see for himself; got up and ran to the tomb. As he peered into the tomb, he saw the linen clothes which Joseph of Arimathea bought, and wrapped the Lord's body in laid out in a place by itself, but there was no body. Jesus' body was not there. The evidence tells it all, but he was still wondering within himself what had really happened (vv1-12).

LESSON:

Luke 24:13-21 Walking To Emmaus

SECOND APPEARANCE

24:13 *"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.* This begins the account on the same day that two of Jesus' followers were walking on the road to a village in Judea called Emmaus, about 7 or 8 miles from Jerusalem which would take somewhere around two or three hours to travel by foot. "Emmaus" means bath or wells. One of the men was named Cleopas (24:18), husband of a woman named Mary (Jh.18:25). The day is important because it was the same day the women discovered the empty tomb and reported it to the disciples (the Resurrection Day or Easter Sunday).

24:14 *"And they talked together of all these things which had happened."* These two followers had fallen into the pit of sadness and despair as they walked and talked among themselves of the things that had happened. They were discussing the events of the past several days—Jesus' Crucifixion (24:20); maybe He's not the Messiah (24:21); and even rumors of an empty tomb and angels (24:22).

24:15 *"And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them."* Well, while they talked among themselves trying to ration the events out, Jesus came along and joined them in the way. The idea is that they were so absorbed in their despairing talk that Jesus was already walking along with them when they finally noticed Him, but they did not know Him.

24:16 *"But their eyes were holden that they should not know him."* This could mean two things: 1.) Jesus appeared "in another form" Mark 16:12 - that is, different from His "usual" appearance. 2.) They were not "expecting" to see Him - indeed, they did not even assume that He was alive, and it required the strongest evidence to convince them that He was really risen from the dead. However, in this particular incident, the Lord "holden" (held; restrained; kept) their eyes from recognizing Him.

24:17 *"And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?"* Jesus inquired as to what kind of conversation they were having. As they walked, they talked with sadness and gloom; as if they had no hope. Jesus could see the sadness and despair written all over their faces.

24:18 *"And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?"* Cleopas answered Jesus, not knowing it was Him, asking if He was a stranger in Jerusalem because He didn't know the events that had occurred in the last (3) days? They didn't even recognize Jesus in appearance or His voice. Jesus knows how to hide Himself even in plain view. This brings to my mind Matt.24:37-40

37 '...Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Gloominess can overshadow hope and blind you to what you've been taught; and who is before you to take care of you.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

24:19 *"And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:"* Jesus is communing like He doesn't know a thing, but He's getting them to talk things over with Him as a Good Shepherd would. Well, He gets them pouring out as to what is in their hearts; what they believed. Their memories were being rekindled. Deep within their hearts they had good things to say about the one that was walking with them, but only thought of Him as a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, but not the Son of God. If only they knew it was He that was with them now.

24:20 *"And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him."* Evidently they blamed the chief priests and rulers for Jesus' death. They had forgotten that Jesus said that *"no one takes His life, but He laid it down of His own free will."* He even went on to say, *"I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again."* (Jh.10:18). This is even after being crucified. Some-how they didn't remember that part.

24:21 *"But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done."* All they really wanted was someone to take up their fight to redeem Israel. They wanted it to be Jesus. Therefore, this had not occurred for them in the physical because now it had been three days since Jesus had been crucified and had died. Their trust was depleting; the sadness on their faces and the disbelief in their conversation was overwhelming and could be seen.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON Chapter 24:22-27

Now apparently these followers were there and heard the astonishing news that the women had given to the apostles—the women went to the tomb and not finding the Lord's body; that they had seen angels telling them that Jesus had risen; is alive. There were also certain ones with them that even went to the tomb to see for themselves if this story was true and they also didn't find the Lord's body there! At this, Jesus now speaks and calls them fools (*dull and slow to believe; senseless, without understanding*) and slow of heart (*not quick to perceive; giving way to doubtfulness and distrust*). He reprimands them for their unbelief. They were expected to have known more than others because they were believers. The two were feeling hopeless and perplexed, full of sadness and despair for one very simple reason: unbelief! He takes them back to the prophecies of the prophets. They heard all the prophets speak of this but somehow did not believe what was spoken. He goes on by questioning them: Should not this be the process of Christ's; for Him to suffer these things and then enter into His glory? Was this not the prediction of the prophets? Even beginning at Moses in the Book of Genesis and throughout the scriptures this was expounded upon? Jesus is giving them another bible lesson of Himself. It sounds like Jesus talking to Philip, *"Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?"* (Jh.14:9).

BACK TO THE LESSON

Luke 24:28-35 Jesus Discloses His Identity

24:28 *"And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further."* Now they are all coming near the village called Emmaus, the end of their journey. And Jesus acts as if He is going further.

24:29 *"But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them."* Jesus would have gone on further if they hadn't constrained (urged; pressed upon; or begged) Him by saying "abide with us." Jesus does not force Himself upon anyone. He always waits to be invited in. They had enjoyed the conversation thus far and wanted to hear more of the truth; besides it was nearly evening and the day was almost over. So Jesus went to rest and abide with them.

24:30 *"And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them."* The conversation was so good, they asked Jesus to tarry with them for the evening for a meal. Jesus acted as the host or the master of the house. This was no coincidence for Jesus, but they were startled while He was at the table for supper. He does the same in their home that He had been seen doing at the Last Supper or so many other times He had fed the hungry or sat with them to eat— He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them.

24:31 *"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight."* Perhaps they observed the "prints" in His hands as He gave them the bread or the peculiarity in the way He broke the bread and gave it to them, or even in the blessing. It was something that triggered their eyes to be opened and know it was Jesus. And in a moment He was gone from their presence. He dare not eat because He had already said that *"I won't eat it again until what it represents has occurred in the kingdom of God"* (Lk.22:16TLB). He gave them a chance to reflect upon what they had heard and seen.

24:32 *"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"* "Did not our heart burn" or weren't we filled with excitement and fire of the truth of God's Word as He talked on the Road to Emmaus? Jesus opened the scriptures in such a way that made their hearts leap for joy to bring them out of sadness to exhilarating hope. The Word Jesus spoke, brought conviction within their hearts to now believe. That's what the Word should do for all of us who believe. They came to know Jesus in a personal way. The two had heard the Scripture explained, and they had heard much. But, they had to respond, to invite the Lord into their home before God could open their eyes and bring them to a full knowledge of Christ. They were filled with excitement and fire of the truth of what was said and what was done in their presence. The Messiah had truly risen and they had seen Him!

24:33 *"And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,"*— They could not rest, having had the privilege of being a part of one of the most unique appearance of Christ's resurrection experiences. These two rose up within the same hour hastening back the seven or eight miles back to Jerusalem. They made their way to the upper room where they knew the eleven apostles and other followers would be gathered behind locked doors in fear of the Jews. The *"eleven apostles"* meant that Judas was now dead. This also shows that the two that were on the road of Emmaus were not apostles.

24:34 *"Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon."* The two followers were immediately greeted with these words: *"The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon."* Simon Peter was the only one of the Eleven to whom Jesus appeared alone, before He was seen of the other apostles. ¹The disciples in Jerusalem already knew that Jesus was alive. He had appeared to Peter. There are no details of this meeting. It was probably a painful but happy experience for Peter. Paul says that Jesus appeared especially to Peter (1 Corinthians 15:5). Remember, Jesus had sent a special message to Peter via the angels and the women (Mk.16:7). Probably, to relieve Peter's distresses and fears, on account of Peter having so shamefully denied his Master.

24:35 *"And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread."* The two from Emmaus now relate what had happened to them. They burst forth with the news of how Jesus had appeared unto them on the road to Emmaus; and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread.

SUMMARY:

² As this scene opens we find two men walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, which was about eight miles northwest of Jerusalem (24:13-17). These men were disciples (not apostles), and one of them was named Cleopas (24:18). As they walked they were discussing the events of the past several days, including Christ's crucifixion and the reports of His resurrection. We get the impression that the men were disappointed because God had not done what they wanted Him to do. As they walked, Jesus joined them, but neither of them recognize Him (24:16). As He listened to their conversation, He asked why they were so sad (24:17). They asked Him if He was a stranger in the area and did not know all the things that had happened in Jerusalem that weekend (24:18). Jesus asked, "What things?" (24:19). Then they unfolded the account of how they had thought Jesus was the Messiah until His crucifixion had shattered their hopes (24:21).

Jesus would have gone further, but the two disciples constrained to tarry with them, and then invites Him to join them for a meal. He sits down and takes the bread, blesses it, then breaks it, and gives it to them. At one point they thought He was going to leave them and they begged Him to stay. After this He broke bread with them. It was the scriptures He opened and their eyes were opened and they finally say *"Did not our hearts burn...as they talked by the way"* The two men rose up the same hour to hasten to Jerusalem to find the 11 disciples and the others. The disciples readily shouted to them, *"He had appeared to Peter"*, and the two from Emmaus now relate what had happened to them, and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread (24:28-35).

APPLICATION:

Beware, Jesus is able to meet us anywhere and anytime to refresh, restore, and rekindle! He is risen to raise us from a despairing situation! He wants to commune with us daily, so the hope we have in Him will arise continually to cause us to believe in Him alone!

¹ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/luke-lbw.htm>

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/jesus-appears-on-the-road-to-emmaus/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>