



Session Sixteen

The Gospel of

Luke, Pt.13

Luke 24

With this Session we come to the end of our study of the Gospel of Luke. We focus on a single, final chapter, but it is an important one: it proclaims Jesus' resurrection, relating it to the proclamation of the church; declares that the crucifixion and resurrection are, in fact, the fulfillment of Scripture; establishes that the presence of the risen Lord will be found in the study of Scripture and the breaking of bread; commissions the disciples for their mission as that mission will be recounted in the book of Acts; and brings closure to the Gospel by reporting Jesus' departure.

Questions to consider as you read Luke 24

- 1) The Apostle Paul makes it clear that Jesus' resurrection—the empty tomb—is the absolute foundation of our faith as Christians: if Jesus was not raised from the dead, Paul says, our proclamations are in vain and our faith is useless (1 Cor 15:14-19). Why would Paul be so adamant that our faith rises or falls on the historicity of the resurrection?

- 2) In 24:5 the angels pose a question to the women who'd come to prepare Jesus' body only to find the tomb empty: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" As much as this was a logistical question for the women, it is an existential question for us, a question about the vitality of our faith and discipleship. Think about your own life as a follower of Jesus, as an individual, as member/attender of a church, as the resident of a community, then answer the question as if it was addressed to you: *Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

- 3) Given that we have no concrete physical evidence that Jesus' resurrection actually occurred, how do you know that it did? How can you bear witness to the fact that Jesus is alive?

- 4) The narrative of Jesus' appearance to the two men on the road to Emmaus (24:13-35) is particularly rich for theological reflection. Here are some questions to consider:
 - a) What is the significance of the fact that Jesus chose to reveal himself to two men who were on their way to an unimportant little town like Emmaus?

- b) What is the significance of the fact that Jesus disappears from the sight of the two men as soon as they recognize him?
- c) What does it mean that as soon as the two men recognized Jesus and Jesus left them that they immediately got up and went to tell others that Jesus was risen?

5) Read 24:36-53. Note that after Jesus appears to the disciples and substantiates that he has risen bodily, then explained how his death and resurrection were the fulfillment of Scripture, that after years of following Jesus and not understanding (or consistently mis-understanding) him, the disciples minds are opened and they understand (verse 45). What does this suggest to you about knowing and following Jesus?

6) Now that you've studied the Sermon on the Mount and all of the Gospel of Luke, consider the following:

- a) How has your understanding of discipleship changed?
- b) What would you now regard as the biggest challenge to your ability to follow Jesus as he demands?
- c) If Jesus asked you to write a job description for "Jesus Follower" what would it say?
- d) In what ways does CENTRALongmont nurture your efforts to be a follower of Jesus? What could CENTRALongmont do that would better nurture your efforts?