Bible Study 78

May 24, 2023

# Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Chapter 24. It is the very last chapter of Luke’s Gospel. In chapter 23 Jesus has died on the cross and his body has been taken by Joseph of Arimathea and is buried in his tomb. Chapter 24 opens with the words: “ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.”

I find it interesting that it is the women who are to the fore here. They find that the stone has been rolled away but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. The next is a strange description. Two men in clothes of ‘gleaming white’ are standing there. NOTE that the Gospel does not report them as ‘angels’ but rather as men.

There is a natural reaction the women are ‘frightened’ and bow down with their faces close to the ground. Then there is the dialogue.

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here he has risen.”

Then strangely the two men recite a part of the teaching of Jesus: “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be risen again.”

The Account goes on to say that it is only then that the women remembered words. Now when they return to the Upper Room, they tell all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. We are so used to hearing of the Apostles but here Luke tells us that there were ‘others’. Then Luke does something strange he names the women:

Mary Magdalene; Joanna; Mary the Mother of James and the ‘others ‘ with them.

The Apostles do not believe. Peter gets up and runs to the tomb he witnesses that the burial clothes are there but no body. In this account there is no mention of John running with him.

### What follows is one of the strangest stories of the Gospel often called “The Road to

Emmaus.” Two disciples are walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus a

village, when they are joined by Jesus but they do not recognize him as the Lord.

“What are you discussing as you walk the road?” they are amazed that he does not know what has been happening in Jerusalem over the previous few days. The discussion is now divided into two parts. Part I. The two men describe the ministry of Jesus and how everyone thought he was the Messiah promised by the prophets by alas the Jewish leaders killed him. Now they speak of the women reporting about the empty tomb.

Part II. Jesus beginning with the prophets explains God’s plan of salvation beginning with Moses. He tells of how the Christ must suffer and die.

Luke adds a natural touch when they reach the village for he states that Jesus looks to ‘go on’. The disciples beg him to join them stating that it is already late.

The meal is a virtual re-enactment of the Last Supper. Something that must have been so familiar to the Christians of 85ad, “the Breaking of the Bread.”

Jesus disappears but the disciples hurry back to Jerusalem to tell all to the Apostles. NOTE the phrase: “and how Jesus was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.”

Verse 36 Jesus appears for the first time to the Apostles. He says: “Peace be with you.” They are frightened, but he shows them his hands and his feet. They he eats with them, and he eats fish.

He goes on to tell them “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms then he explains the scriptures to them again.

He instructs them to be witnesses and to stay in the city. In Verse 50 he takes them out to Bethany, blesses them and is taken up into heaven. The verse reminds us of the going of Elijah in the Old Testament.

They return to Jerusalem full of joy and pray continually in the temple.

## Read chapter 24