

Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,⁷ saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”

⁸ And they remembered His words.⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles.¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, “What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?”

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.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 stay with them.

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

³² And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

³⁶ Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.”³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.³⁸ And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?”⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.⁴³ And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the Prophets* and *the Psalms* concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Introduction

We are now in the last chapter of Luke's Gospel.

Remember that last week I pointed out that Luke wrote His Gospel about Jesus after talking to all of the eye witnesses who experienced the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Luke didn't meet Jesus personally, therefore he wanted to check out everything that was available to him so that he could write an orderly account to an individual called "Theophilus."

Although chapter 24 is a very long chapter, Luke's focus is on the teaching of Jesus to His disciples.

The big revelation by Jesus to His disciples concerns the Old Testament Scriptures.

Jesus told all of His disciples that the whole of the Old Testament scriptures were written about Himself.

In other words, Jesus told His disciples that if they really wanted to understand His death and Resurrection, then they would need to understand that the Jewish Scriptures, what we call the Old Testament, were all about Jesus.

Normally Christians use the New Testament to teach about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

However, at that time, there was no New Testament scriptures to teach from.

If you have no Christian background, or very little understanding of the whole Bible then it would be difficult for you see the purpose of the "Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ."

You would need to understand some basic information from the Jewish Scriptures to comprehend the importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Therefore, there is a need today to focus upon what Jesus wanted His early disciples to know about Himself from the Jewish Scriptures.

We will do this as we come to the place in the text where Jesus refers to this point.

There are two things in Chapter 24 that we need to be clear about.

The first is that Jesus Christ actually rose from the dead and had a physical body.

The second that is that on two different occasions Jesus taught His disciples the importance of understanding His death and resurrection from the whole of the Jewish Scriptures.

1. Jesus Christ actually rose from the dead and had a physical body. – v. 1-12 & 36-42.

We are told by Luke that the first people to discover about the resurrection of Jesus were a group of women. Only three of these women are identified by Luke. Thy are Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James.

There were other women at the tomb but they are not identified.

These women had come to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices.

This was the first opportunity that the women had to prepare and anoint the body of Jesus.

They were clearly expecting the body of Jesus to be inside the tomb.

When they got to the tomb they discovered that the large stone that was blocking the entrance of the tomb had been rolled away.

The women looked inside the tomb and discovered that the body of Jesus was missing.

Naturally they were shocked to find that the body of Jesus had disappeared.

As they thought about the situation, two Angels, described by Luke as two men in shining garments, spoke to them.

v. 6-7. Here in the N.K.J.

⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,⁷ saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’

In v. 8 we are told that the women “remembered the words of Jesus” about His death and resurrection.

Then the women returned to the other disciples and informed them about the situation concerning Jesus and His resurrection.

It is clear at this point that the women believed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

However, in v.11 we are told that their words seemed to the disciples like idle tales. The disciples did not believe the witness of the women.

So at this point, the lady disciples believed in the resurrection of Jesus, but the men did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

However, one of the men, Peter, ran to the tomb and discovered that the linen cloths, which were wrapped around Jesus, were lying by themselves.

We are told by Luke that Peter marvelled about what had happened.

Although Luke does not record the fact that there was a handkerchief lying separately, I think it is worth reading John’s account of this event.

John 20: v.3-8. In N.K.J.

³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*,⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

Many Jewish Scholars think that this handkerchief was a sign to encourage Peter about the resurrection of Jesus.

When a Jewish person was having a meal with other Gentile people, they had a custom of folding their napkin in a certain way to communicate with their friends that they disapproved of the hospitality that they were experiencing.

It was a secret sign to communicate that they didn’t like the place and it was time to leave.

It is possible that Jesus left his head handkerchief folded in a certain way to communicate a message to Peter.

The message would have only have been understood by Jewish men.

Jesus was saying to Peter, “I don’t like this place so I am off to a better place.”

We need to remember that Peter denied knowing Jesus, regretted it, and now he was encouraged.

Perhaps a signal from Jesus changed his thinking.

So in this first section, we have the women going to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They had no expectation of the resurrection of Jesus. They had just come to anoint His body with spices.

However, as the Angel spoke to them, he reminded the women of the words of Jesus.

The women believed in the resurrection of Jesus, because of His words.

Yes!!, they needed to be reminded of what Jesus had said about his death and resurrection, but it was belief in the words of Jesus that convicted them and gave them the assurance about His resurrection. This is an important point when it comes to the application for everybody here today.

It is belief in the “words of Jesus” that will ultimately determine our future.

John 11: v. 25-26. In N.K.J.

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

If we do not believe that Jesus was God's Son and that He came into this world to die for our sins, and after three days, He was raised from the dead and is alive today, then we will not have any personal assurance of our resurrection to eternal life with Jesus in Heaven in the future.

Peter was a little different, he needed some sort of personal sign from Jesus as he looked into the empty tomb.

It appears that **Jesus may have given Peter some encouragement to believe in the resurrection of Himself.**

Perhaps today, you need some encouragement to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

If you are seeking the truth about Jesus and His resurrection, then maybe He will give you some encouragement to believe.

The Apostle Paul in the book of Acts was given a personal experience of hearing the voice of Jesus. (Acts 9: v. 3-5)

However, for Paul, there was going to be a great responsibility for taking the Gospel message to the Gentile world. This would involve great personal sacrifice.

The second point in this section is that Luke is clearly wanting us to understand that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a bodily resurrection.

It was not some sort of "Spirit Appearance".

v. 36-42 in the N.L.T.

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.

The question we need to ask is, "why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus so important?

Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 15: v. 20-24 in N.K.J.

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Jesus is the firstfruits and later, believers come as the rest of the harvest.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus proves to us that ALL Christian believer's bodies will be raised from the dead and will have a real body.

It will not be exactly like the body that we have today. However, it will be similar in some ways. We will certainly recognize each other, but our bodies will not experience pain, suffering, decay or death.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus is also dependent upon our Salvation.

Romans 10: v. 9-10. N.K.J.

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

If Jesus hadn't been raised from the dead in bodily form then as Paul says in the scriptures, our preaching would be in vain.

2. Jesus taught his disciples to understand His death and resurrection from the Scriptures. – v. 25-27, 44-45.

The first thing that we need to understand is exactly what Jesus said to His disciples about understanding the death and resurrection of Himself.

v. 25-27

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

v. 44-45.

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

For a very long time, the Jewish people only had one book which they called the “Law” or sometimes “The Law of Moses”. This to us is the first 5 books of the Bible.

Later on in the history of Israel they had what they called the Psalms or the writings.

These writings included the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Then they had the prophets. These were all of the Prophetic writings; they included all of the Prophets.

Although this does leave out a few books in the Bible, it was generally accepted by the Jewish people at that time that any reference to the Law, the writings and the prophets included what we regard as the whole of the Old Testament.

So what we need to fully understand here is that Jesus was telling His disciples that the whole of the Old Testament as we know it, was all about Jesus and His death and Resurrection.

To put it another way, anything we need to know about the death and resurrection of Jesus is contained in these books.

It is not possible to go through all of the books of the Old Testament and identify where it speaks about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I thought that I would focus on this one account of how Jesus explained His death and resurrection from an Old Testament Prophetic book.

The reason for this is that Jesus made it very clear to the unbelieving Jewish leaders, and I hope that it is very clear to us.

Jonah Chapter One – Three in the N.L.T.

¹ The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish.

⁴ But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. ⁵ Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship.

But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. ⁶ So the captain went down after him. “How can you sleep at a time like this?” he shouted. “Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives.”

⁷ Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. ⁸ “Why has this awful storm come down on us?” they demanded. “Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?”

⁹ Jonah answered, “I am a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.”

¹⁰The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the LORD. “Oh, why did you do it?” they groaned. ¹¹And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, “What should we do to you to stop this storm?”

¹²“Throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault.”

¹³Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn’t make it.¹⁴Then they cried out to the LORD, Jonah’s God. “O LORD,” they pleaded, “don’t make us die for this man’s sin. And don’t hold us responsible for his death. O LORD, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons.”

¹⁵Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once! ¹⁶The sailors were awestruck by the LORD’s great power, and they offered him a sacrifice and vowed to serve him.

¹⁷Now the LORD had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the fish. ²He said,

“I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble,
and he answered me.

I called to you from the land of the dead,
and LORD, you heard me!

³You threw me into the ocean depths,
and I sank down to the heart of the sea.

The mighty waters engulfed me;
I was buried beneath your wild and stormy waves.

⁴Then I said, ‘O LORD, you have driven me from your presence.
Yet I will look once more toward your holy Temple.’

⁵“I sank beneath the waves,
and the waters closed over me.

Seaweed wrapped itself around my head.

⁶I sank down to the very roots of the mountains.
I was imprisoned in the earth,
whose gates lock shut forever.

But you, O LORD my God,
snatched me from the jaws of death!

⁷As my life was slipping away,
I remembered the LORD.

And my earnest prayer went out to you
in your holy Temple.

⁸Those who worship false gods
turn their backs on all God’s mercies.

⁹But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise,
and I will fulfill all my vows.
For my salvation comes from the LORD alone.”

¹⁰Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

3 Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: ²“Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.”

³This time Jonah obeyed the LORD’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. ⁴On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” ⁵The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.

⁶When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. ⁷Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city:

“No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. ⁸People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They

must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence.⁹ Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us."

¹⁰ When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

Matthew 12: v. 38-41 in the N.L.T.

³⁸ One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority."

³⁹ But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

⁴¹ "The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent.

Jesus makes it clear that the book of Jonah was all about Him, and not about Jonah.

Jonah was only God's instrument to point to the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the mercy of God because of it.

The people of Nineveh were rescued from their sin because Jonah delivered God's message to the city. This is only one story from the Old Testament that teaches about Jesus, His death and resurrection. It is without doubt that this is one of the things that Jesus explained to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus.

If you are fortunate enough to have a large ESV study Bible, then you will discover that somebody has attempted to try and discover Jesus in every Chapter of the Old Testament. It can make interesting reading.

The point that Luke makes in v. 45 is that the disciples were still a little confused until Jesus opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the scriptures.

v. 45 in N.K.J.

⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Also in v.30-31 after Jesus had taken bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, that their eyes were opened and they knew Jesus.

Quote v. 30-31 in the N.K.J.

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Conclusion and Application

To be true to the intention of the writer at this time we need to focus upon Luke's purpose of writing His account about Jesus.

Luke's purpose is for people to be 100% certain about Jesus, His life, death and resurrection.

Therefore, today, I want everybody to be certain about who Jesus is, why He came, that He died for all of our sins, and that He was raised from the dead after three days.

It is my prayer today that Jesus will open our eyes to see our sin, to convict us of the need to ask Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

We need to base the foundation of our certainty in what Jesus says, and in the truth of the whole Bible.

Let us pray and ask Jesus Himself to reveal Himself to those who are seeking Him.

We will now have silent prayer for three minutes.