



The Lord has Risen!
In support of FMZ Easter Sunday Activities
SSE-HYBRID is **Cancelled for Easter Sunday**
See You Next Sunday!

Our Read-Ahead for: 09 April 2023

“The Lord Appears!”

Monday: Appearance of the Risen Lord (1st Corinthians 15:1-8)

Tuesday: The Appearance to Mary of Magdalene (John 20:11-18)

Wednesday: The Appearance to Thomas (John 20:24-39)

Thursday: The Appearance to Seven Disciples (John 21:1-8)

Friday: Breakfast with the Disciples (John 21:9-14)

Saturday: Simon Peter Called to Follow (John 21:15-19)

Sunday: You are Witnesses of These Things (Luke 24:36-53)

The Lord Appears

Lesson Text: **Luke 24:36-53**

Bible Background: **Luke 24:36-53**

Devotional Reading: **1st Corinthians 15:1-8**

Keep in Mind: *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke to you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” (Luke 24:44, KJV)*

Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will DESCRIBE the assurance of the power of the Holy Spirit, REFLECT on the power of God displayed in Scripture, and DECIDE to seek the fulfillment of all that Jesus has promised us.”

In Focus

Promises made are often hard to keep. In today’s lesson, we will see how Jesus kept His promises and fulfilled all Old Testament prophecies.”

Focal Verses

Luke 24:36-51 ~KJV

36 And as they thus spoke, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

38 And he said unto them, why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved 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 among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.”

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.”

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

“**Jerusalem.** Jerusalem was the central religious and political area for Israel. Throughout the Old Testament, Jerusalem is always the central place that the leaders, judges, prophets, and people are affiliated with in some way. This is also true of the New Testament. In the beginning of the book of Luke, he opens with a scene from the Temple where Zechariah is worshipping and is told by an angel of the Lord that John the Baptist would be born (1:8–17). Immediately following that announcement, the birth of Jesus is foretold (1:26–38). Throughout the book of Luke, we are given hints that Jerusalem is where all the most important events will occur. So it is no surprise that Jesus predicted that His suffering on the Cross, death, and resurrection would occur in Jerusalem. We end the book with Jesus’ followers worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem (24:52–53).”

Background

On the third day after the death of Christ, two disciples encountered the resurrected Jesus on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–21, 28–35). Because they were so grief stricken, they were unaware it was Jesus. He opened the Scriptures to them and revealed the Old Testament prophecies that spoke of the Messiah. After such sadness and despondency over the death of their leader, His words restored their hope. They invited Him to stay with them since it was so late when they arrived in Emmaus. They shared a meal. Once they recognized Jesus, He disappeared. They then returned to Jerusalem to witness to the other disciples about their encounter with the resurrected Savior. Today’s text tells of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples and His ascension.”

In Depth

1. Jesus’ Appearance to His Disciples Behind Closed Doors (Luke 24:36–43)

It’s very late at night when Cleopas and the other disciple arrive back in Jerusalem. Their journey from Emmaus was seven miles. And lest we forget, it is the same day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. The 11 apostles and others assembled surely had to be surprised to see them again, especially at such a late hour. Cleopas and the other disciple felt the need to share the renewed hope they had experienced after encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus. In the midst of their conversation, Jesus appeared in the room (v. 36). He said, “Peace be unto you.” The apostles and other disciples were behind closed doors in fear the Jewish leaders would harm them (John 20:19). Moreover, it was late at night. They did not hear a knock at the door, the door open, or any footsteps. He simply appeared and greeted them.

While the disciples were overjoyed at being able to see the resurrected Jesus, they still had some doubts about the reality of what they were experiencing (Luke 24:41). Once again, to prove to the believers gathered that it really was Jesus in the flesh, He ate some fish and honeycomb (vv. 42–43). This demonstrated He had a physical body that could consume food.”

2. Jesus’ Appearance to His Disciples in Jerusalem (vv. 44–49)

According to Acts 1:3, forty days have passed between Jesus’ resurrection and His ascension. Jesus and His followers had traveled to Galilee and back before He returned to heaven (Matthew 28:16). Jesus and His disciples were back in Jerusalem (Luke 24:44–49; see comments on v. 50 in *More Light on the Text*).

Jesus had to fulfill all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah (e.g., Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:10; 22). He opened the minds of His disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit so they could understand the Scriptures. Jesus then reminded them that He had previously predicted His suffering, death, and resurrection on the third day (Luke 9:21–22, 43–45; 18:31–34). There is continuity from the Old Testament through the New Testament.

God is faithful and keeps His promises. The apostles and disciples were witnesses to all He did. The words that He spoke were destined to be fulfilled, even before the beginning of all creation.”

3. Jesus’ Ascension (vv. 50–53) Jesus led the apostles and disciples to a village on the Mount of Olives called Bethany This village was a mile away from Jerusalem and began at the Mount of Olives where Bethpage ended. It was here where Jesus chose to ascend into heaven. Jesus “lifted up his hands, and blessed them” (Luke 24:50). The blessing is a priestly act in which Jesus places His followers in the care and favor of God. They would need to learn how to completely depend on God for all things. Most importantly, they needed God’s Spirit to help them understand the Word so as they prepare to go places and preach, lives would be transformed. While He was blessing them, Jesus started to ascend into heaven (v. 51). They watched until He could no longer be seen. Jesus returned to heaven to be with His Father, who welcomed Him.

II. Take Aways

III. Closing Prayer