



It is True!

Luke 24:13-35



Empty Tomb

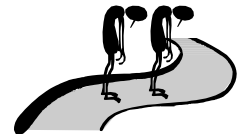
- ❑ Jesus was crucified (*Luke 23:33-49*). His dead body was laid in a tomb (*23:50-56*). The next morning, some women¹ went to the tomb, but the tomb was empty! (*24:1-3*) Angels appeared to them and said, “He is not here; he has risen!” (*24:4-6*).
- ❑ The women went to tell the Eleven,² but “they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense” (*24:9, 11*). But Peter and John went to see (*24:12; John 20:3-8*), and they confirmed it was true. The tomb was empty.³ Had Jesus really risen from the dead?⁴

Gloomy⁵ Road

- ❑ After Jesus’ crucifixion, his followers were very sad, disappointed and discouraged. They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ), who was going to deliver them from their oppression, and take them into the kingdom of God. But Jesus’ death had killed their hopes.
- ❑ The day after Jesus’ death, two of his followers⁶ left Jerusalem. They were among the sad, disappointed and discouraged. The road ahead seemed gloomy. Read Luke 24:13-35.

Cloudy Perspective⁷

- ❑ As the two followers (or disciples) walked along the road, they were discussing the things that had happened. “Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him” (*24:15-16*).⁸ Jesus asked them, “What are you discussing?” (*24:17*)
 1. Their faces were downcast (*24:17*). They were sad, disappointed and discouraged. What was the basis for their feelings? What information had they considered? How did the empty tomb affect their understanding and feelings?⁹



Illuminating¹⁰ Instruction

- ❑ In response to the two disciples, Jesus said, “How foolish you are...” (*24:25*). The two disciples lacked understanding. Their perspective was cloudy (unclear, confused). Their observations and discussions fell short. They lacked a true understanding concerning Jesus.

¹ Luke names ‘Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them’ (*24:10*).

² ‘the Eleven’ refers to Jesus’ close disciples. Before Judas betrayed Jesus, they were ‘the Twelve.’

³ After seeing the empty tomb, Peter ‘went away, wondering to himself what had happened’ (*24:12b*). Though Jesus had predicted his resurrection several times (*Matthew 16:21; Luke 9:22; 18:33*), the disciples were slow to understand.

⁴ This is the big question! The historical evidence for the resurrection of Christ is very strong. See Jay’s short paper *The Resurrection of Christ* for a brief summary of arguments. Belief in Christ’s resurrection is reasonable, to say the least.

⁵ ‘gloomy’ – having a feeling of deep sadness; dark or dim

⁶ One of these followers is named Cleopas (*Luke 24:18*) whose name does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament. The other follower is not named. In any case, it is not one of the Eleven who remained in Jerusalem (*24:33*).

⁷ ‘perspective’ – a point of view in understanding. A proper understanding requires a proper perspective.

⁸ Their ‘eyes were kept from recognizing him’ (ESV). Apparently, God was concealing Jesus until the appropriate time. Mark 16:12 says, ‘Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.’

⁹ Their feelings were based on their expectations concerning Jesus, and their observation of the events that seemed to kill those expectations. How could the Messiah be killed, and still deliver them? The reports of the empty tomb and Jesus’ supposed resurrection amazed them, but they did not believe or understand, ‘for they did not see Jesus’ (*v. 24*).

¹⁰ ‘illuminating’ – giving light; explaining, making clear

2. What did the two disciples lack? What information had they failed to properly consider and understand?¹¹ (24:25-27)
- ❑ Jesus asked, “Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” (24:26)¹² And Jesus led them through all the Scriptures, explaining how the Scriptures pointed to himself as the Messiah and Savior of the world (24:27).¹³
3. Like the two disciples, *our* perspectives can be cloudy. Even as believers, our expectations, observations, and discussions can be off track, and leave us confused and discouraged. What is needed? What must we do? In what way can it help?¹⁴

Confirming Revelation

- ❑ As the two disciples approached their destination, they urged their traveling companion to stay with them. So Jesus went in to stay with them (24:28-29). As they began to eat together, Jesus “took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight” (24:30-31).
4. Why do you think their eyes were not opened earlier? Why do you think Jesus delayed in revealing himself? How might this story apply to us today?¹⁵



Good News!

- ❑ The perspective of the two disciples was no longer cloudy. They saw the Light. They saw the Scriptures in a new light (24:32), and they experienced the reality of the risen Christ. They rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven. But the Eleven also had exciting news, saying...
 📖 “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon (Peter)” (24:34).
- ❑ Then Jesus appeared to them and proved that he really was alive (24:36-45). He declared that they were witnesses, and that the good news would be preached to all nations. Read 24:46-48.

Reflection & Application

- Do you believe Jesus has risen? If not, investigate the reasons why so many people do believe. But remember, “seeing” Jesus requires God’s revelation, by the Spirit, mainly through the Bible.
- Believers, are you troubled or discouraged? Review question 3 and seek God-given perspective.

¹¹ Jesus said, ‘...how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!’ (24:25) The two disciples had failed to properly consider and understand the Scriptures (that is, the Old Testament portion of the Bible).

¹² While prophecies of a suffering Messiah are not explicit in the Old Testament, the theme of a suffering Messiah is drawn from Isaiah 53 and other passages. Suffering prior to glory was the general pattern of God’s chosen leaders, and Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and types. Furthermore, on numerous occasions, Jesus had said that he would suffer prior to his exaltation (Luke 9:22, 44; 12:50; 17:25; 18:32-33).

¹³ ‘beginning with Moses’ (24:27) refers to the first five books of the Bible; ‘all the Scriptures’ refers to the Old Testament Scriptures as a whole. For a relatively short example of this approach, see Stephen’s speech in Acts 7:2-53. The study series *God’s Promise for the Nations* (on the ICF website) also takes this approach.

¹⁴ We need ‘illuminating instruction’ from God’s word – the Bible. The Bible presents the ‘big picture’ of God’s plan for this world. It presents God’s promises, ways, and will. The Bible both warns and encourages. It helps us face reality, including suffering. Most importantly, the Bible points us to Jesus, in whom we have salvation, peace, joy, and hope.

¹⁵ In considering this question, we should ask: What happened before Jesus revealed himself? Jesus called their attention to the Scriptures – God’s written revelation. He wanted them to ‘see’ Jesus in the context of God’s plan and purpose. With that understanding, they were prepared for the ultimate revelation – Christ himself. In our desire to ‘see’ the risen Jesus, we need to see him in the context of the Bible. As we humbly seek the truth through the Bible, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see the Light. As we receive the Light, we become more sensitive to the reality of His presence.