

ECCLESIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Pastor Luther H. Holmes, Jr.
May 11, 2022
Bible Study Lesson

What Happened After The Resurrection?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Luke 24: 36-53 King James Version

³⁶ And as they thus spake, 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.⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:⁵³ And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

We celebrated the resurrection of Jesus by remembering and proclaiming that He is risen, that He is alive. But now, a few weeks after Easter perhaps the appropriate question is, what now? If we know and believe that Christ has been raised from the dead, what's next?

Our key scripture reference for tonight's lesson entitled "**What Happened After the Resurrection**" is found in the 24th Chapter of Luke. Here we find a gathering of the disciples of Jesus who are about to see and hear from the risen Lord Himself. As Jesus appears to His followers on the evening of that resurrection Sunday, he teaches them and gives them instructions regarding their calling and commission in light of his resurrection and the salvation that He has accomplished.

We will discuss the Appearance of Our Resurrected Lord, The Commission of Our Resurrected Lord, and the Worship of Our Resurrected Lord.

I. THE APPEARANCE OF OUR RESURRECTED LORD (24:36-43)

- **A Sudden Appearance (vs. 36a)** – As the disciples gathered on the evening of resurrection Sunday, they knew that Jesus was alive, but most had not seen Him. But as they gathered Jesus appeared to them. Though the doors were locked, suddenly Jesus was in their midst.
- **A Greeting of Peace (vs. 36b)** - While it was very common during this time for people to offer one another a greeting of peace, this greeting is special because it comes from the One who that very morning had rose from the dead securing peace with God for all who believe. ([Isaiah 53:5](#); [Romans 5:1](#)).\
- **An Assurance of Identity (vs. 37-42)** – When Jesus appeared the disciples thought He might be a spirit or ghost. But Jesus offers proof that this isn't a dream, vision, or a spiritual appearance; this is Jesus Himself in the flesh. This is important. If Jesus did not truly rise from the dead, then there is no forgiveness and there is no salvation (1 Corinthians 15).
- **A Joyful Wonder (vs. 41)** – Three words are used to describe the disciples' reaction: disbelief, joy, and marveling. This combination of words points to a joyful wonder – their joy and amazement made what they were seeing “beyond belief.”

II. THE COMMISSION OF OUR RESURRECTED LORD (24:44-49)

When Jesus speaks, He begins to teach His disciples both about God's plan of salvation and their part in seeing it go forward. God had planned and prophesied what Jesus would accomplish on the cross. Now the disciples are being sent as witnesses of all that has happened and of the salvation that has been purchased.

- **The Foretelling of the Plan of Salvation (vv. 44-46)** –A crucified and resurrected Messiah is not a change in the plan of God, this was the plan all along! Jesus takes time to help His

disciples see how all that has taken place was foretold in the Old Testament ([Luke 18:31-34](#); [22:3](#)). Through this teaching Jesus is preparing them and giving them what they need to go out and to proclaim Him and the message of salvation to the world.

- **The Offer of the Plan of Salvation (vv. 46-47)** - Not only do the Scriptures foretell the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also that through Him all who repent and believe will receive the forgiveness of sins ([Isaiah 53:5-6](#)). This is the message the disciples were to proclaim.
- **The Witnesses of the Plan of Salvation (vs. 48)** – As Jesus explains God’s plan of salvation and how it has been foretold and accomplished, He also tells the disciples that they are being sent as witnesses of all that has happened and of the message of salvation ([1 John 1:1-3](#); [Acts 10:37-43](#)).
- **The Reach of the Plan of Salvation (vs. 47)** – There is no limit to the commission Jesus gives. The proclamation is to start in Jerusalem and then expand to all nations ([Acts 1:8](#); [Genesis 12:1-3](#)).
- **The Power of the Plan of Salvation (vs. 49)** –The call of Jesus is vast, but in addition to the call Jesus promises the Holy Spirit that will empower and embolden the disciples ([Acts 1:8](#)).

III. THE WORSHIP OF OUR RESURRECTED LORD (24:50-53)

- **The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven (vs. 50-51)** - The ascension is another affirmation of who Jesus is, that He is the One whom God had promised would come. He accomplished His work and now is exalted to the right hand of the Father.
- **The Worship and Joy of the Disciples (vs. 52-53)** - As we think about the departure of Jesus, we may expect that His disciples would be downcast or lost. But Luke records that after seeing the resurrected and exalted Jesus and recognizing what He had accomplished they worshipped Him and accepted their commission with joy.

APPLICATION: The mission that was initiated on that evening after the resurrection is the same mission that we have been given. This isn't just a calling for a select group of Believers – this is for all of us. We have been called to proclaim the message of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins to the world ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). This is both our calling and our privilege!

As followers of Jesus, as those who have believed in His death and resurrection and received the forgiveness of sins, we have a calling. We have been called to be witnesses of Jesus and of the Good News of salvation. And this calling should not be considered a duty or drudgery; like the disciples we should respond and live out our calling in worship and with joy.