

Promises Kept Sunday School- April 7, 2013

Unifying Topic: THE LORD APPEARS

Lesson Text

I. Convincing Proof For The Disciples (Luke 24:36-43)

II. Promises And Prophecies Fulfilled (Luke 24:44-49)

III. The Ascension (Luke 24:50-53)

The Main Thought: 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. (Luke 24:44), KJV).

Unifying Principle: People find that promises are easy to make but hard to keep. Which promises can be relied on without reservation? Through the resurrection, Jesus kept His word and fulfilled the words of prophecy about Him.

Lesson Aim: To help students gain confidence in the promise that Jesus Christ will be with them always.

Life Aim: To remain encouraged even through disappointments, standing firm with faith in the truth of God's Word, knowing that Jesus is alive and His promises are true.

24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

24:37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

24:38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

24:39 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.

24:40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

24:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

24:42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

24:43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

24:44 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.

24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

24:49 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.

24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

24:53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

HISTORY:

Jesus had just revealed Himself to the two followers on the road to Emmaus. They were excited to tell the 11 apostles that they had seen Jesus, the Risen Lord. The eleven reveals that Simon Peter was the only one out of the eleven that had also seen the Lord. This next scene takes place at night—the very day of the Lord's Resurrection. It is a dramatic scene. The Lord had already made at least four appearances.

1. Mary Magdalene (Jh.20:14)
2. The women visiting the tomb (Matt.28:1; Mk.16:1).
3. The two men walking to Emmaus (Lk.24:1).
4. Simon Peter (Lk.24:34; 1Corth.15:5).

LESSON:

Luke 24:36-43 Convincing Proof For The Disciples

24:36 *"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."*

The eleven disciples (minus Thomas) and some other disciples were assembled in the upper room with all the doors shut (Jh.20:19). While they had just finished telling their stories, of Simon seeing Jesus and the two on the road to Emmaus seeing Him, then all of a sudden out of nowhere Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them. WOW! The very

first words Jesus speaks to the disciples after His death: *"Peace be unto you."* This was the regular greeting of the Jews in that day, but it had a very special significance now. The disciples needed peace, the peace that only Jesus could give.

24:37 *"But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit."* They didn't know what to make of this. The impact of talking about Jesus' Resurrection and His sudden appearance in their midst terrified and affrighted them. They thought it was a spirit; not being real. I would think that His appearance would be glowing which would certainly initially frighten anyone.

24:38 *"And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?"* These are Jesus' close disciples still troubled with uncertain thoughts arising in their hearts.

24:39 *"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."* Jesus really had to prove Himself. To further assure them that it is He, He says, *"Look at my hands and feet."* They didn't have to say what they were thinking, He already knew it. Jesus wanted them now to touch Him; handle Him, to see that He was not a spirit; not a vision; not a phantom; not an hallucination, or a figment of their imagination. He says, *'would a spirit have flesh and bones?'* ¹After this night, they would never again fear death. They know now by the scars in His hands and feet that this is Jesus, They know that death of the body will not be the end of them, either. They know now that for the body to die is to live for all of eternity. Death will no longer be a dread to them.

24:40 *"And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet."* After saying look, He shows them His hands and His feet. Yes, He had physically risen from the dead and His body was real. He differed yes, but it was His body. It was perfected and no longer subject to the limitations and frailties of the physical universe and its laws, such as: tears, death, sorrow, or crying. It was now glorified by the power and spoken Word of God. How will our bodies look in heaven? I assume they will be the same body as it was on earth, with the exception that the body will go through a radical change of nature. *"For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality"* 1Cor.15:53. Jesus' body had all the appearance of a physical body, but it was not bound by the physical world and its material substance. **I believe we will see and know our loved ones in heaven!**

- It was the same body, not some other body. We know this because His resurrected body bore the marks of the nails in His hands and feet (Jh.20:20, 27), and the disciples could recognize Him after close observation.
- It was a body that could travel and appear anyplace, at will and by thought—a body unhampered by space, time, material, or substance. When He appeared it was suddenly, even behind locked doors (Lk.24:36; Jh.20:19).
- It was a body that differed enough that it was not clearly recognized at first, not until it was closely observed.
 - Mary Magdalene thought He was the gardener until the Lord called her name (Jh.20:15-16).
 - The two followers walking on the road to Emmaus thought He was a traveler until He broke bread (Lk.24:31).
 - The disciples who were fishing did not recognize Him standing on the seashore until Jesus had spoken and John said, *"It is the Lord"* (Jh.21:4-7). Peter was the only one to get out of the boat and swim toward Jesus. Verse 14 *"This is now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples after that he was raised from the dead."*
- As Jesus allowed them to see His glorified body, others will know and see our glorified bodies in heaven.
- Although Peter had never met Moses and Elijah, he recognized them on the Mount of Transfiguration and suggested to build 3 tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. Peter saw Moses and Elijah and did not say, 'Who are those men?' He truly recognized them (Lk.9:28-33).
- Even the rich man in hell recognized Lazarus being carried by the angels into Abraham' bosom into heaven (Lk.16:22).
- Jesus said *"...Many will come from east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven"* Matt.8:11.
- Jesus told His disciples, *"I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes"* Lk.22:17-18. The disciples will know each other.
- Jesus' ascension was in His physical bodily form, and Acts 1:11 assures us that *"this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

We will never feel out of place among any of the saints of God! We will know them.

24:41 *"And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?"* This was too much to take in; it was too good to be true, so Jesus asks for some meat to eat to prove that His body was real.

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/luke/59.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

24:42 *"And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb."* They accommodated Him by giving Him a piece of a broiled fish, and a honeycomb. This was their usual supplement that they had to offer.

24:43 *"And he took it, and did eat before them."* Jesus then gives a public demonstration that He was real and not a ghost; that He is able to eat what they eat.

Luke 24:44-49 Promises And Prophecies Fulfilled

24:44 *"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."* Jesus reminds the disciples that the Prophecies in all the books of the Old Testament, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms about the Messiah have been fulfilled in Him. He didn't come to do away with the law, but he came to fulfill it.

24:45 *"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,"*— We know the Old Testament is revealed in the New, while the New is concealed in the Old. Christ opens their understanding that they might understand the scriptures. Until your understanding of the Scriptures is opened by Jesus, you can read it all you want to and not know what its saying.

24:46 *"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:"* He begins with—*"It is written, The Messiah had to suffer before He arose to life again three days later."* The Old Testament passages (Psalm 22:14-17; 16:10) confers with the New.

24:47 *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* This verse continues from the above as Jesus speaks to them. Repentance and remission were very vital to the message to be preached among all nations, and He tells them where it is to start; in Jerusalem.

1. They were to preach **repentance**—be sorrowful for sin and forsake it; ²turn your back on the life you have been living and walk in newness of life. Put your sins under the blood of Jesus, and they are gone.
2. They were to preach **remission**. There will be remission for their sins—pardon or forgiveness.
3. They were to preach **in His name**. Pardon is offered by the authority of Christ, only in Jesus' name to all nations.
4. They were to preach **among all nations** but **begin in Jerusalem**. ³Preach the gospel *"first"* to the Jews. This was the dwelling of his murderers, and it shows his readiness to forgive the vilest sinners. It was also the holy place of the temple, the habitation of God, and it was proper that pardon should be first proclaimed there.

24:48 *"And ye are witnesses of these things."* Jesus lets them know that they are His witnesses in the earth realm because of what they had seen and heard, and learned. They were truly firsthand witnesses to the truth of Jesus' Good News!

24:49 *"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."* Now Jesus is equipping them to be powerful witnesses. To accomplish this task:

- Jesus gives the *"promise"* of His Father to come upon them. It is the power of the Holy Spirit. However...,
- They were to *"tarry"* (wait) in the city of Jerusalem until He the power from on high would come upon them.

This power was to make them bold and effective witnesses among all nations. They would all be assembled in the Upper Room on one accord when God's Holy Ghost power would endow them (Acts 2).

Luke 24:50-53 The Ascension

24:50 *"And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them."* Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, at the Mount of Olives which stood within the boundaries of Bethany. ⁴Jesus had been walking on the earth 40 days since His resurrection from the dead when He came here to Bethany. Jesus was now about to ascend into heaven. This was the same place from which He began His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Lk.19:29, 38-39). He now lifts His hands to give them His final blessing.

24:51 *"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."* The ascension closes the Lord's earthly ministry. Now it would be left for others to continue His ministry.

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/luke/59.html>

³ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/26039/eVerseID/26039/RTD/Barnes>

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/luke/59.html>

24:52 *"And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:"* The disciples responded to the ascension in three ways.

1. They worshipped Christ. The ascension stirred worship. Why? The disciples now knew beyond question that He was the True Messiah, the Son of God Himself. And He had ascended to the right hand of God. Therefore, He was due all the homage, adoration, and praise.
2. The disciples were filled with great joy. Their Lord was now exalted and privileged to take His rightful place. They knew that His presence would always be with them.

24:53 *"And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen."*

3. The disciples were in the temple continually praising and blessing God; the One they had just seen come alive and go back to heaven. This was the place where the people were instructed in the Scriptures which brought them great joy.

SUMMARY:

Jesus now appears to the eleven as they are talking among themselves. He suddenly stood in their midst. He says *"Peace be unto you"* but they are really startled because they think that they are seeing a ghost. With all the great news about others seeing Him, you would wonder why they are troubled and doubting that He is before them? Jesus allows them to look and even touch His hands and feet; just to get their minds at ease and to know that He is not a spirit. He says, *'would a spirit have flesh and bones?'* They now see for themselves as He shows them His hands and His feet. They still weren't overcome by joy, so Jesus goes further; He's pulling out all the stops by asking for something to eat. They give Him a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb. It took everything in the book to convince these disciples that it was He.

Jesus lets them know that all of this had to be fulfilled as it was written in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Their understanding was coming back to them as He began to teach what was written in the scriptures to them. This is significant of who and what was prophesied of Jesus. He had to suffer. He had to rise from the dead the third day. Repentance and remission of sins is to be preached in His name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. These are Jesus' witnesses who have seen Him in action and have witnessed His rising from the dead of scripture being fulfilled. Since these are His witnesses, He's sending the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) to empower them in the work of the ministry. To receive this power from on high, they were to tarry in Jerusalem until the power clothed them. The Prophecies have been fulfilled from the Old Testament and the Promise is fulfilled in the Book of Acts 2; the New.

As they get to the destination of Jesus' departure, they arrive at Bethany. He lifted His hands to heaven and blessed them and departed, rising into the heavens. This sight brought worship and great joy as they returned to Jerusalem to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit. On one accord they praised and blessed God in the temple because that's where Jesus would always be found.

APPLICATION:

Just as Jesus had to open their understanding with what the scriptures said, we too as witnesses will have to continually pause to remember. If we can only remember God's Word; the Word we read everyday, fear would not arise, but boldness to speak that same Word against opposition would rise because God's promise of the Holy Spirit has come!