

Episode: Luke Series No. 20

Narrator: Luke

Primary Scriptures: Luke 24

Story Summary: Resurrection of Jesus

Location: Jerusalem

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 24:2-3, 24:6, 24:27, 24:45-47, 24:50-53

Luke started his Gospel talking about the miraculous event of Jesus being born to a virgin, Mary. As a doctor, he must have been very convinced of the truth of that event or he would not have written about it. As hard as that must have been, writing about the resurrection and ascension of Jesus must have been equally as challenging. However, he must have been just as convinced of the truth of those events.

The ascension of Jesus and his future return is historically a standard part of Christian belief. Luke wrote about those two things in *Luke* and *Acts*. Without Luke's writing, how would we know about those two things? Matthew and John do not mention them in their Gospels, and the passage in *Mark* that mentions the ascension is disputed, and does not mention his return. If it wasn't for Luke's accounts we would be left to the relevant passages in the rest of the New Testament for our knowledge of the ascension and future return of Jesus.

Where did Luke get his eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection? As he traveled with Paul, he most likely spent time with Jesus' original apostles and disciples. Also, Luke knew that at least five hundred people had witnessed the resurrection, so he likely talked to some of them.

It is best to study all the Gospel accounts of the resurrection and post-resurrection at once, especially using a harmony/parallel account. Each Gospel has something important to add. If you do so, you will probably come away with a timeline of events similar to this: the tomb is visited by women, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is found to be empty by the women, Peter and John visit the empty tomb, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, Jesus appears to other women, soldiers report, Jesus appears to two people on road to Emmaus who report to the other believers, Jesus appears to assembled disciples, Jesus appear to the seven while fishing, Jesus appears to the eleven, Jesus makes other appearances, and Jesus ascends to heaven.

As will be found in the remaining books of the New Testament, the first Christians were absolutely convinced of the truth of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. But the marvelous revelation of Jesus' return isn't clearly revealed until Luke's next book, *Acts*.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would Luke have become convinced of the truth of the resurrection, ascension, and future return of Jesus?
 2. Mary Magdalene was at the tomb when it was revealed that Jesus had been resurrected. Knowing her history as someone healed from demons, how do you think she felt? Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus was revealed to women first?
 3. Jesus lived in his resurrected body for forty days. What sorts of things do you think he did in that time?
 4. Why do you think Luke ended his Gospel with the ascension of Jesus without revealing that Jesus would return again?
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1. Eyewitness accounts, the early Christians fully believed in them. 4. *Acts* is a continuation of Jesus' story. Maybe he wanted to have that information as a big reveal to start *Acts*.

Application Questions:

1. How would you have felt if you had been with Jesus when he started rising in the air? The book of *Acts* says Jesus will return in a manner like the one he left. The next time you look in the sky, imagine that you see Jesus coming back. One day, somebody doing that will see him!
2. Perhaps Mary Magdalene's past life came back to her mind after she realized Jesus was resurrected. In a sense, she had been resurrected by Jesus to a new life. With that analogy, what part of life did Jesus resurrect you to?
3. The two people on the road to Emmaus had the Old Testament scriptures explained to them by Jesus (Luke 24:27). Do you know those scriptures enough that Jesus' explanations would make sense to you?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. If the apostles had guessed, they surely would have expected Jesus to appear first to Peter, James, or John. Why do you think Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene instead? Why might Jesus choose to make himself known to you instead of someone that is more popular at school?
2. It seems pretty obvious that nobody really expected for Jesus to rise from the dead even though he had said he would. What has Jesus said that you don't really believe?
3. Jesus resurrection from the dead is proof that he has control over everything. Without that event, he was just a good person. Do you realize that your belief or non-belief in his resurrection has such an impact over your whole worldview?