

“Promise of the Father” Luke 24:36-53

Context: During the seven mile journey to Emmaus two disciples, not of the twelve, encountered the resurrected Christ. They immediately returned to bring their experience to the apostles who were hiding in fear that they might be the next ones crucified. Jesus appeared while the two disciples were bearing witness that He was raised. The next Sunday Jesus appeared to Thomas. After that the disciples went to Galilee where Jesus appeared to them on the shore. They then returned to Jerusalem where Jesus led them to Bethany and ascended into His glorified state as God. Luke concludes his account and purpose as it began. He describes the resurrected presence of Christ through the promise of the life-giving Spirit in order to steady the sometimes wobbly belief of God-lovers as they live out their gospel witness.

Life Principle: Jesus meets us in our places of doubt with the assurance we need (cf. Luke 24:36, 38).

1. Promise as worked out in the body – Luke 24:33-43

Luke records Jesus' first appearance in the upper room in His 'not yet glorified' transition state. He dispelled the disciples' doubts and fears of an apparition, calling them to verify his physical presence by touch and sight, and eating before them.

2. Promise as worked out in the mind – Luke 24:44-49

Jesus declared that He is the completion toward which the three major portions of the Old Testament pointed. Human understanding is dull to these completions, veiled by the Fall. In order to draw back the veil covering human minds, the Father through Jesus sends the Spirit. Jesus then calls believers to engage in Spirit-empowered spreading of the Gospel of salvation.

3. Promise as worked in the S/spirit – Luke 24:50-53

Luke provides an abrupt end to the account of his investigation. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to His omnipotent and omniscient existence as God. The reader is left with the disciples blessed by Jesus' peace, as evinced by the great joy within and worship in community without. The story leaves the reader wondering: "What becomes of those who are waiting for the power from on high?"

Study questions:

- Luke 24:48 calls the disciples as witnesses to the Gospel of salvation. Verses 46-47 give the essential concepts that are part of that Gospel witness. What are the essentials of the Gospel? Compare our **doctrinal statement**, especially footnotes 9, 11, and 12 under **On Salvation**, under **what we believe** at <http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/DocStmnt.pdf> with the content described. Write out and commit to memory a simple statement of the Gospel of salvation with two places it can be found in Scripture that you could give in the duration of a 3-floor elevator ride (i.e. Luke 24:46-47; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- Luke began his account of encouragement by introducing the life-giving Spirit, He who reveals Christ's truth of eternal life (cf. Luke 1:35). Using your concordance, look up the word 'spirit' in Luke (at least 30 occurrences). How does the Holy Spirit interact with the human spirit in these passages? How do these passages relate to Jesus' command to the disciples to wait in the city until they are clothed with the power from above (cf. Luke 24:48, cp. John 20:22)? In everyday life, what do these passages have to do with you (cf. Ephesians 3:16-21).
- Luke 24:49 reiterates a stunning truth from days of old: "the promise of the Father." As a **Bible study method**, look up the following verses that describe the Father's promise: Acts 1:4-8; 2:4,17; 2 Timothy 1:1; 1 John 2:25-25. What is the promise? What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to life (i.e. Ephesians 1:14, 19-20; 3:16)?

Transformation exercise:

Memorize Luke 24:48. Each morning ask the Lord to spiritually sensitize you to: (1) persons to whom you are to witness, (2) situations when you are to witness, and (2) the words or work that make up that witness.