

The Disciplex's Commentary
Answer Outline for the Disciplex
Luke 24

24:1-12 – The resurrection of Jesus; key words are “He is risen”

- Ask the disciplex why the resurrection of Jesus is so important. What did Jesus' resurrection prove? (See 1 Cor. 15:14).
- Ask, “To whom did the resurrected Jesus first appear...men or women?” Why?
- How did Jesus' resurrection result in a death knell for Satan and his power on earth?
- What did Jesus' resurrection prove about everything He taught, and what did it prove about who He claimed to be?
- How did Jesus' resurrection result in the death of the Law, as presented in the first five books of the Old Testament?
- Have the disciplex take the role of a skeptic. What kinds of explanations would a skeptic make up about the resurrection; that is, how would a skeptic attempt to explain away the resurrection? (Come up with ideas like Jesus extricated Himself out of the tomb, or His disciplex stole His body, or the women [and later, the men] all went to the wrong tomb.)
- How does the resurrection of Jesus provide hope for all Christians everywhere?
- Ask the disciplex what is the significance that all four gospels present slightly different information concerning the resurrection. If there was in fact a conspiracy involved on the part of the gospel writers, wouldn't they have all told the exact same story?

24:13-35 – The appearance of Jesus to the two disciplex on the road to Emmaus

- Ask the disciplex why he or she thinks Luke went to such great lengths to describe Jesus' appearance to the two disciplex on the road to Emmaus.
- What were the two disciplex discussing, and did they believe at the time that the reports of Jesus' resurrection were true?
- Luke writes, “...their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.” Why would God prevent their eyes from recognizing Jesus? How does this information correspond to other incidences in Luke where certain information about Jesus is “hidden”? See if the disciplex can come up with explanations why God would hide information—particularly in regard to their future—from believers. In what area of theology might God's hiding truth be particularly true? (Hint: end times.) Therefore, if there are so many interpretations of future events, is there any reason Christians, churches or denominations should be divided over the issue?
- What happened that caused the eyes of the two disciplex to be opened? What does the breaking of bread symbolize in the gospels? Ask the disciplex how his or her studying the Gospel of Luke changed their view of Jesus and their relationship with Him?
- How does the subject of “expectations” affect Cleopas's perspective on the reports of Jesus' resurrection? Ask the disciplex what are his or her expectations concerning their life as a Christian, or their relationship with Jesus. What expectations are simply hopes, and what expectations are realistic according to Luke's gospel?
- Ask the disciplex to comment on verse 26. What is the significance of Jesus' statement here, that Christ must “suffer”? What does this mean in terms of the forgiveness of sins? See if the disciplex can relate the issue of suffering with other statements Jesus has made, such as taking up one's cross and following Him.
- Have the disciplex focus on the word “explained...the Scriptures” in verse 27. What is the significance of this part of the story, and how should that be applied to Christians today? Ask the disciplex if he or she attends a church where the Scriptures are “explained.”

24:36-43 – Jesus makes His appearance before all the disciples

- *When Jesus appears before all the disciples, what are His first words, and why? What was the reaction of the disciples when He appeared? Ask the disciple how he or she would react if Jesus (or an angel) suddenly appeared out of nowhere. If such a thing were to happen today, how would the Western world attempt to explain the report?*
- *When Jesus appears to the disciples, what does He instruct them to do? Ask the disciple what is the significance that Jesus had the disciples touch His hands and feet. What is the significance that Jesus asked for something to eat?*
- *At this point, it may be necessary for the discipler to introduce the heresy of Gnosticism and what the Gnostics believed about the flesh. How did the Gnostics attempt to explain Jesus' appearance, both before and after the resurrection? The discipler may want to have the disciple read the opening words of First John. Then see if the disciple can relate any of these heresies to what he or she has seen on TV. Because of questions raised by many TV channels that specialize in "history," the disciple should be warned against such relentless speculation that raise doubts about the historical accuracy of the gospels.*
- *Ask the disciple if he or she can describe Jesus' injuries to His hands and His feet. This is important regarding the skeptics' theory that Jesus Himself might have rolled away the stone from the tomb. Would that have been possible with those kinds of injuries? And how would Jesus have been able to walk and stand in the midst of the disciples just three days after the crucifixion, not to mention being able to walk on the road to Emmaus? The purpose of going into this detail should be to confirm the disciple's faith about Jesus' resurrection and the validity of the gospel accounts.*

24:44-49 – Jesus makes it clear to the disciples that there is one Messiah, two comings

- *Help the disciple see the importance of verses 44-49. Note that this is the second occasion in chapter 24 where it is stated that the "Christ would suffer." Help the disciple understand the significance of this statement in relation to what were the disciples' expectations of the Messiah, and what He would bring to mankind.*
- *At this point—if it hasn't been done already—ask the disciple again what his or her expectations are in regards to their relationship with Jesus, and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. How does the disciple plan to live out his or her calling as a Christian?*
- *Help the disciple see that verses 44-49 present an outline for the Acts of the Apostles that Luke will later write.*
- *Ensure that the disciple understands the significance of verse 45. How does a Christian have his or her mind "opened" today, and in what form does that opening take place? (Hint: the Scriptures.) Therefore, if the disciple wants to know more about God and Christ, where does that disciple go? What is the only source for opening one's mind to the will of God through Jesus Christ?*
- *Comfort the disciple by informed him or her that not all Christians are called to suffer, but all Christians are called to sacrifice, and especially to sacrifice for those who do suffer. (E.g., Christians in the Middle East.)*
- *Ask the disciple if he or she can explain the motive behind all of God's actions through Jesus Christ. Once identified, ask the disciple what should be the motive behind living a life pleasing to God.*

24:50-53 – Jesus ascends into heaven after opening the Scriptures to the disciples for forty days

- *The disciple should be informed that Jesus appeared to the disciples over a period of forty days before His ascension into heaven. Ask the disciple how much instruction Jesus could have given the disciples concerning the Scriptures and Himself over that forty-day period. Therefore, how does that explain the extreme transformation in Peter's life between the resurrection and Pentecost?*
- *Inform the disciple that the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit empowers the disciples ("the promise" in verse 49), occurred 10 days after Jesus' ascension. Thus, Pentecost was 50 days after Passover.*
- *It may also be helpful if the disciple is informed that the Feast of Pentecost is also known as the Feast of First Fruits. How would that relate to the beginning of the church?*
- *Ask the disciple what is the significance of the fact that the disciples were "worshiping Him." What does that say about the divinity of Christ?*