

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, March 31, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. Other than the fact that Moses' law required two witnesses to a possible crime or event, what are some other advantages for there being two or more witnesses at a time to Jesus' resurrection appearances (with Mary in the garden and Paul on the road to Damascus being two notable exceptions)?

Two witnesses can verify that His appearances were not dreams, illusions, or visions. Two witnesses can correct any misunderstanding or refresh a memory of the other.

Two or more witnesses can report on an event from different angles as they observed an event.

2. What reason does Luke give for the two on the road to Emmaus being sad?

They were sad because they had trusted that Jesus was the Messiah (and they implied that He had disappointed them). They were sad because He had suffered crucifixion, and they did not believe the reports that He had risen from the dead.

3. Why was it important for Jesus to point the two eye witnesses on the road to Emmaus back to what the Bible had taught about the Messiah and His coming?

Jesus always taught that the Bible, the Scriptures, were the Word of God (written), and the Scriptures were the absolute standard for right and wrong, truth and error. Every idea and teaching was to be measured by what the Bible taught. The Bible's teachings and His appearances (and teaching) served as two witnesses regarding the facts about His crucifixion and resurrection and their meaning.

4. Why did Jesus begin with Moses and proceed to explain what all the prophets and all the scriptures said about Him?

The first five books of the Bible were called the books of Moses, so Jesus began at the beginning of the Scriptures.

He showed how all the Bible revealed truths about Him, His coming, and the work He would accomplish on Earth. So, there were many passages of Scripture about Him and what He would do, not just a handful of verses.

5. Why do you think Jesus appeared and disappeared when He chose, and not because (or when or if) people called Him back to appear to them?

Otherwise, people might have tried to call Jesus back from the dead, as Saul tried to call Samuel back from the dead to talk to him; the Scriptures forbid people from trying to talk to the dead (and, of course, Jesus was not dead; so He could appear and disappear when He chose). Some people might think they could control His appearances and others might try to deceive people by tricking them into believing an actor (using magic tricks) was an appearance of Jesus. Jesus showed that He was alive and well, and He could make choices and do what He wanted to do according to His timing.

God forbids talking to ghosts or spirits (see Deuteronomy 18:10-11); Jesus was not a ghost or spirit. Moses told the people they were to listen to or heed the Messiah who would be like him and come in the future (see Deuteronomy 18:15). It is very interesting that the truth God told Moses in verse 15 so closely follows what God forbids in verses 10-11.

(Deuteronomy 18:10) No one shall be found among you who makes a son or daughter pass through fire, or who practices divination, or is a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer,

(Deuteronomy 18:11) or one who casts spells, or who consults ghosts or spirits, or who seeks oracles from the dead.

(Deuteronomy 18:12) For whoever does these things is abhorrent to the LORD; it is because of such abhorrent practices that the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

(Deuteronomy 18:13) You must remain completely loyal to the LORD your God.

(Deuteronomy 18:14) Although these nations that you are about to dispossess do give heed to soothsayers and diviners, as for you, the LORD your God does not permit you to do so.

(Deuteronomy 18:15) The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.

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