



# International Bible Lessons Commentary

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

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## **Luke 24:1-12 & 30-35** **New Revised Standard Version** **April 1, 2018**

The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, April 1, 2018**, is from **Luke 24:1-12 & 30-35**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

**(Luke 24:1) But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.**

Because of the Passover and the coming Sabbath, Jesus was hastily buried in a cave-like tomb and a huge stone was rolled in front of the door to seal it. Spices had been given to prepare the body for burial, but Jesus' body was

not embalmed and the spices had not been left in His tomb. The spices were taken to the tomb early Sunday morning by the women. Even though His body was not prepared for burial, His body did not see decay or any decomposition before God raised Him from the dead in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Peter preached, “Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption’” (Acts 2:31). As Hosea indicated, “his appearing is as sure as the dawn,” and the women found the tomb empty “at early dawn” (Hosea 6:3).

**(Luke 24:2) They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,**

Though two Roman guards had been stationed to guard the tomb because the religious leaders had feared that His disciples would steal Jesus’ body, the women found the tomb abandoned by the guards and the stone rolled away from the tomb door.

**(Luke 24:3) but when they went in, they did not find the body.**

They entered the cave or tomb (which would have been similar to the tomb in which Lazarus was buried before Jesus raised him from the dead — see John 11). They found the tomb no longer contained Jesus’ body. As yet, they did not know that Jesus was raised from the dead.

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**(Luke 24:4) While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.**

The women did not understand the meaning of the empty tomb. Grieving, having come prepared to anoint the body of the one they loved, they did not know what to think. Suddenly two men dressed in dazzling white appeared to them. To fulfill the Scriptures regarding the number of eyewitnesses that are needed to be accepted as legal testimony two witnesses had to speak to the women (see Deuteronomy 17:6, Matthew 18:16, John 8:17, 2 Corinthians 13:1, and Revelation 11:3). Luke did not identify them as angels; rather, he recorded exactly what the women said they saw without drawing any additional conclusions. We know from the women's response to these men and other gospel accounts and descriptions that these men were angels.

**(Luke 24:5) The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.**

These witnesses appeared suddenly in the appearance of holiness, so the women were terrified and humbly bowed their heads. The angels asked them why they were among the dead, for Jesus had risen from the dead. The empty tomb was evidence that Jesus had risen from the dead. Additional evidence of His resurrection included what

Jesus had prophetically told them earlier and Jesus had fulfilled His prophecy; therefore, the tomb was empty: “Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life’” (Luke 9:21-22). See also, Luke 13:32, when Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about King Herod wanting to kill Him: “He replied, ‘Go tell that fox, I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’” Presumably, if they had understood and believed Jesus’ prophetic words, the women (and later Peter and John) would not have gone to the tomb, but would have waited for Jesus to come to them (which He did when He appeared in the upper room and other places to overcome their lack of belief and give understanding to His disciples).

**(Luke 24:6) Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,**

The angels went on to explain the empty tomb based on the words of Jesus, the Word of God. Before they ever travelled to Jerusalem, Jesus had told them in Galilee what would happen to Him in Jerusalem. Jesus did not need to go to the city to get a sense of how He would be accepted or not. He knew exactly how He would be accepted before Palm Sunday. He knew He would be praised by the crowds. He knew how He would die at the

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hands of sinners, and He knew He would rise from the dead. Jesus was a prophet. What Jesus foretold happened, so He was a true prophet of God as well as the Son of God, Lord, and Savior.

**(Luke 24:7) that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”**

The women and the disciples of Jesus hardly understood or believed Jesus' prophecy in Galilee. Jesus called himself "the Son of Man." Based upon all that Jesus had done as the Son of Man, they would not believe that Jesus "would not" or "could not" save himself from crucifixion and death. They knew that Jesus could save himself from sinners, because He had done it before (see Luke 4:28-30). Jesus, the Son of God, preferred to use the title "Son of Man" when speaking of himself, because that was His way of claiming to be the long-expected Messiah. As Son of God, Jesus is fully God; as Son of Man, Jesus is fully human. Jesus foretold exactly how many days He would be in the tomb, and His rising on the third day also proved to be correct.

**(Luke 24:8) Then they remembered his words,**

When they were reminded, they remembered. Reading the Bible repeatedly helps us remember and see connections between one verse and another verse in different Bible books (for example, compare Luke 24:1 and Hosea 6:3). Reading the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit and

teachers (these two angels were teachers) will deepen our faith. Up to this point, the women now had three reasons to believe Jesus was alive: the tomb was empty: two angels had told them He was alive; Jesus had told them what to expect “He would rise on the third day,” and He fulfilled His prophecy.

**(Luke 24:9) and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.**

The women went immediately to tell the disciples and the others gathered with them what they had witnessed. These fearful followers of Jesus had gathered to grieve. They feared the authorities, who might try to arrest and kill them too, because they believed that with Jesus’ death they were unprotected.

**(Luke 24:10) Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.**

The women gave eyewitness accounts and quoted the words of Jesus (the Bible) to Jesus’ followers. More than one witness told what they had seen and heard, and Luke named the primary eyewitnesses. The apostles had (and we have) good and sufficient evidence and reasons to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. What Jesus prophesied and what these women experienced and reported was and is today good enough evidence for anyone to believe that Jesus was crucified, dead, buried and rose on the third day.

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**(Luke 24:11) But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.**

Jesus chose His disciples to represent Him before the world and to build His Church, and His disciples were the first to hear the women's testimony, but they had been crushed with disappointment and sadness when Jesus was crucified and did not save himself, so they would not believe the women. They wanted more evidence than the women's testimony to believe. The fact that these apostles found it difficult to believe, but eventually believed after Jesus appeared to them too is additional evidence that Jesus actually rose from the dead; and by doing so, He overcame all their fears of the political and religious authorities in Judea and elsewhere.

**(Luke 24:12) But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.**

Along with the women, Peter knew exactly where Jesus had been buried. Perhaps because Peter was the Rock upon whom Jesus chose to build His Church, Peter immediately ran to the tomb. He found the tomb exactly as the women had described; other gospel writers give more details of Peter's visit to the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying by themselves, which may mean that Peter saw them collapsed where the body of Jesus had been laid because Jesus had passed through the cloths when He was

resurrected from the dead. [Jesus could also pass through the stone door to the tomb, since He could pass through locked doors and walls to appear to His disciples in the upper room. The stone was rolled away to allow the women to enter the tomb, not to let Jesus out of the tomb.] Peter might have seen the cloths carefully folded and set to one side. In any event, no one would have stolen Jesus' body without taking the shroud that covered Him with them still wrapped around His body. So, the linen cloths in the otherwise empty tomb are additional evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and that Peter had gone to the right tomb. Peter left the tomb amazed, and he would later meet Jesus himself according to Jesus' perfect timing.

**(Luke 24:30) When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.**

Later that day, Jesus met two of His followers on the road to Emmaus and explained the Scriptures about himself to them. When they arrived at Emmaus, they invited Jesus to eat with them (not knowing at the time that it was Jesus who had been walking with them). When we read this verse, we naturally think of Jesus' Last Supper. These two may or may not have been at Jesus' Last Supper (which we think of as exclusively for the 12 disciples, because of many paintings of the Last Supper). As their teacher on the road, Jesus would have naturally offered a prayer and broken and distributed the bread at their meal. They would have seen Jesus do this on other occasions when He fed His



disciples or fed the crowds. They would have recognized His hands as His hands, just as we recognize the hands or mannerisms of a loved one when we have seen them used often. Luke does not tell us if they saw the marks of crucifixion on His hands or not, but perhaps they did.

**(Luke 24:31) Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.**

God opened their eyes and the eyes of their understanding in Jesus' manner of breaking the bread and praying. The very moment they recognized Jesus, they would have tried to detain Him and talk more to Him, but His time of visitation was complete, and He had taught them all they needed to know at that time; so, He vanished from their sight. As God, He could stay with them invisibly and be with others at the same time wherever people were. As God, He could give them the strength to walk the 7 miles back to Jerusalem that very night, which they did.

**(Luke 24:32) They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”**

Studying the Scriptures with the light the Holy Spirit gives to our understanding and our comprehending new truths from the Bible that are life-changing at that very moment can create a feeling within us that can be described as “our hearts burning within us.” Jesus gave these two on the

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road to Emmaus what the Holy Spirit sometimes gives believers today when they study the Bible. The Holy Spirit through Bible teachers and preachers can open the meaning of the Bible to us in ways that help us come to believe in the truth of the Bible and trust Jesus in an instant.

**(Luke 24:33) That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.**

In addition to the testimony of the women in the morning, later that night or very early the next morning, the disciples and some other followers of Jesus received the testimony of the two men who had met Jesus at night on the road to Emmaus. The angels had referred to the words of Jesus (the Bible) when they spoke to the women. Luke reported that Jesus also pointed these two on the road back to what the Bible taught: “Jesus said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself’” (Luke 24:25-27). When talking to them, in a subtle and gentle way, Jesus implied that all who had heard the women’s testimony should have believed He had risen because of what the Bible taught about Him and what He would do.

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**(Luke 24:34) They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”**

Luke did not describe the details of the Lord’s appearance to Simon Peter. When teaching about Jesus’ resurrection, the Apostle Paul wrote, “that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve” (1 Corinthians 15:4-5). The disciples apparently came to believe the truth only after Jesus had appeared to Peter (what Jesus told him at this first appearance to Peter we do not know), which substantiated what the women had told them earlier as well as confirmed what the Bible taught about the Messiah.

**(Luke 24:35) Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

After the two men learned about the Lord’s appearance to Simon and before the Lord appeared to all the other disciples, they reported their experience. They described how they had recognized Jesus in breaking the bread, perhaps relating something very distinctive about the way the Lord Jesus prayed and broke bread before supper. No doubt, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they told the disciples all that Jesus had taught them about the Bible and how the Bible taught about His coming, dying, and rising from the dead to save us from sin. After this, the Eleven were ready to see and receive the resurrected Jesus

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personally and come to believe in Him as their Messiah, Lord, and Savior; for Luke reported, “While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’” (Luke 24:36).

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

1. What is one fact about Jesus’ resurrection that you remember from other books of the Bible that Luke does not include in these verses or in his book?
2. Why do you think the apostles would not believe the women?
3. Why do you believe in Jesus’ resurrection?
4. In addition to the eyewitness accounts they had heard about Jesus having risen from the dead, what other important evidence did Jesus give these two people in His efforts to convince them that He was alive?
5. Why do you think Jesus did not appear to all the disciples until after the women and the two who saw Jesus on the road to Emmaus reminded them of what the Bible taught and what Jesus had taught them earlier?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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