

# The Gospel According to Luke

## ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE

## PART 12

*Our Savior Glorified*

**READ: LUKE 24:36-53**

### INTRODUCTION

*The disciples had heard the reports—Jesus was alive. But in this moment, gathered together in uncertainty and likely fear of Roman or Jewish retaliation, they still didn't know what to make of it. Then suddenly, Jesus appeared among them and spoke words they desperately needed to hear: "Peace to you". His appearance is both sudden and gracious. Rather than rebuking them for their unbelief, Jesus reassures them with presence and peace. Luke is careful to emphasize the physicality of the resurrection. Jesus is not merely a vision or spirit; He invites them to touch His hands and feet and eats a piece of broiled fish in their presence. This underscores the bodily resurrection, an essential component of Christian doctrine (1 Corinthians 15:3–8). Jesus' actions affirm that the resurrection is a physical reality, not just a spiritual symbol.*

*He then "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures". The reference to the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms points to the threefold division of the Hebrew Scriptures, indicating that all of the Old Testament testifies about Christ. What had once been unclear to the disciples now becomes illuminated by the risen Jesus Himself. This is not new teaching—it is fulfillment. Jesus shows that the Messiah had to suffer and rise, in accordance with passages such as Isaiah 53, Psalm 16:10, and Hosea 6:2. Jesus also defines the content of the church's message: "repentance for the forgiveness of sins". This is not merely a private faith—it is a global commission. The gospel must go to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. And this commission is not in their own strength. Jesus tells them to wait for "power from on high"—a clear reference to the Holy Spirit, who would be poured out in Acts 2.*

*The final scene is Jesus' ascension. He lifts His hands, blesses them, and is carried into heaven. The disciples' response is striking. They do not retreat into fear, but return to Jerusalem with joy and worship. They understand now who He truly is, and their lives will never be the same. In this short passage, we see a foundation laid for the future of the church: a risen Savior, the truth of Scripture, the call to mission, the gift of the Spirit, and a response of worship. Jesus equips His followers for the future—not with ease, but with purpose, clarity, and a promise.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. Why is it significant that Jesus invited the disciples to touch Him and watch Him eat? How does this affirm the reality of His resurrection?
2. How does Jesus' explanation of the Scriptures (v. 44-47) help us see the Bible as one unified story pointing to Him?
3. What is the importance of repentance and forgiveness being preached to all nations? How does this shape our mission as a church?
4. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit (v. 49). How should the promise of the Spirit affect the way we approach God's calling in our lives?
5. Why do you think the disciples responded to Jesus' ascension with worship and joy? What does that say about their understanding of who He is?

### *WRAP UP*

Luke closes his Gospel not with uncertainty, but with hope. Jesus, risen and reigning, commissions His disciples to be witnesses to the world. Though He ascends, He leaves them with peace, clarity, and joy. And He sends the Holy Spirit to empower them. We are part of the same mission. Christ calls us to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in His name. He gives us the same peace (John 14:27), the same Scriptures, the same Spirit. Will we walk forward in boldness, joy, and obedience, knowing that our risen Savior goes before us?

Let's be people who worship, wait with faith, and witness with power—just as they did.