INTRODUCTION:

24:1-12 The women came to the sepulcher early the first day of the week to anoint the body of Jesus but found the stone had been rolled away and Jesus’ body gone. Being bothered by this, two angelic beings spoke to them and the women bowed with faces to the ground before them in fear. The angels reminded them of the words spoken by Jesus that on the third day He would arise. With this news they had to tell the apostles. The only one to search these tales out was Peter. He saw only the clothes in which His body had been buried with Him in the tomb and he began to wonder to himself.

LESSON: I. RECOLLECTIONS OF CHRIST LUK 24:13-24

24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. This begins the account on the same day that two of Jesus’ followers were walking on the road to a village in Judea called Emmaus, about 7 or 8 miles from Jerusalem which would take somewhere around two or three hours to travel by foot. "Emmaus" means bath or wells. One of the men was named Cleopas (24:18), husband of a woman named Mary (Jh.18:25). The day is important because it was the same day the women discovered the empty tomb and reported it to the disciples (the Resurrection Day or Easter Sunday).

24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. These two followers had fallen into the pit of sadness and despair as they walked and talked among themselves of the things that had happened. They were discussing the events of the past several days—Jesus’ Crucifixion (24:20); maybe He’s not the Messiah (24:21); and even rumors of an empty tomb and angels (24:22).

24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. Well, while they talked among themselves trying to ration the events out, Jesus came along and joined them in the way. The idea is that they were so absorbed in their despairing talk that Jesus was already walking along with them when they finally noticed Him, but they did not know Him.

24:16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. Neither recognized the stranger who had joined them. This could mean two things: 1.) Jesus appeared “in another form” Mark 16:12 - that is, different from His “usual” appearance. 2.) They were not “expecting” to see Him - indeed, they did not even assume that He was alive, and it required the strongest evidence to convince them that He was really risen from the dead. However, in this particular incidence, the Lord holden (held; restrained; kept) their eyes from recognizing Him.
24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?— Jesus inquired as to what kind of conversation are you having? As they walked, they talked with sadness and gloom; as if they had no hope. Jesus could see the sadness and despair written all over their faces.

24:18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?— Cleopas answered Jesus, not knowing it was Him, asking if He was a stranger in Jerusalem because He didn't know the events that had occurred in the last (3) days? They didn’t even recognize Jesus in appearance or His voice. Jesus knows how to hide Himself even in plain view. This brings to my mind Matt.24:37-40

37 ‘...Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? 40 ‘The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Gloominess can overshadow hope and blind you to what you’ve been taught; and who is before you to take care of you.

24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: — Jesus is communing like He doesn’t know a thing, but He’s getting them to talk things over with Him as a Good Shepherd would. Well, He gets them pouring out as to what is in their hearts; what they believed. Their memories were being rekindled. Deep within their hearts they had good things to say about the one that was walking with them, but only thought of Him as a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, but not the Son of God. If only they knew it was He that was with them now.

24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. Evidently they blamed the chief priests and rulers for Jesus’ death. They had forgotten that Jesus said that "no one takes His life, but He laid it down of His own free will." He even went on to say, "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again." (Jh.10:18). This is even after being crucified. Somehow they didn’t remember that part.

24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. All they really wanted was someone to take up their fight to redeem Israel. They wanted it to be Jesus. Therefore, this had not occurred for them in the physical because now it had been three days since Jesus had been crucified and had died. Their trust was depleting; the sadness on their faces and the disbelief in their conversation was overwhelming and could be seen.

24:22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;— Now, apparently certain women were there at the tomb, and gave astonishing news to the apostles.

24:23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. The women went to the tomb and not finding the Lord’s body, but
seeing a vision of angels who spoke that Jesus had risen and is alive.

24:24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. And to confirm this, certain ones of the apostles went to the tomb (actually running) to see for themselves if this story was true. And they also didn’t find the Lord’s body there!

II. INSTRUCTION OF CHRIST        LUKE 24:25-27

24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:—

Two of Jesus’ followers were walking on the road to a village in Judea called Emmaus and they had fallen into the pit of sadness and despair (24:13-15), which led them to discuss the events of the past several days—Jesus’ Crucifixion (24:20); maybe He’s not the Messiah (24:21); and even rumors of an empty tomb and angels (24:22). Neither of them recognized Jesus when He appeared and began to walk and talk with them. Jesus hearing this and seeing their faces, He now speaks and calls them “fools” (dull and slow to believe; senseless, without understanding) and “slow of heart” (not quick to perceive; giving way to doubtfulness and distrust). He reprimands them for their unbelief. They were expected to have known more than others because they were believers. The two were feeling hopeless and perplexed, full of sadness and despair for one very simple reason: unbelief! He takes them back to the prophecies of the prophets. They heard all the prophets speak of this, but somehow did not believe what was spoken.

24:26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? — He goes on by questioning them: Should not this be the process of Christ, for Him to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?

24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Even beginning at Moses in the Book of Genesis and throughout the scriptures this was expounded upon. Was this not the prediction of the prophets? Jesus is giving them another bible lesson of Himself. It sounds like when Jesus was talking to Philip, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?” Jh.14:9.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 24:28-29

24:28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. Now they are all coming near the village called Emmaus, the end of their journey. And Jesus acts as if He is going further.

24:29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. Jesus would have gone on further if they hadn’t constrained (urged; pressed upon; or begged) Him by saying “abide with us.” Jesus does not force Himself upon anyone. He always waits to be invited in. They had enjoyed the conversation thus far and wanted to hear more of the truth; besides it was nearly evening and the day was almost over. So Jesus went to rest and abide with them.

III. UNVEILING OF CHRIST        LUKE 24:30-32

24:30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. The conversation was so good, they asked Jesus to tarry with them for the evening for

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a meal. Jesus acted as the host or the master of the house. This was no coincidence for Jesus, but they were startled while He was at the table for supper. He does the same in their home that He had been seen doing at the Last Supper or so many other times He had fed the hungry or sat with them to eat— He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them.

24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. Perhaps they observed the “prints” in His hands as He gave them the bread or the peculiar way He broke the bread and gave it to them, or even in the blessing. It was something that triggered their eyes to be opened and know it was Jesus. And in a moment He was gone from their presence. He dare not eat because He had already said that "I won’t eat it again until what it represents has occurred in the kingdom of God" (Lk.22:16TLB). He gave them a chance to reflect upon what they had heard and seen.

24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?— "Did not our heart burn" or weren’t we filled with excitement and fire of the truth of God’s Word as He talked on the Road to Emmaus? Jesus opened the scriptures in such a way that made their hearts leap for joy to bring them out of sadness to exhilarating hope. The Word Jesus spoke, brought conviction within their hearts to now believe. That’s what the Word should do for all of us who believe. They came to know Jesus in a personal way. The two had heard the Scripture explained, and they had heard much. But, they had to respond, to invite the Lord into their home before God could open their eyes and bring them to a full knowledge of Christ. They were filled with excitement and fire of the truth of what was said and what was done in their presence. The Messiah had truly risen and they had seen Him!

SUMMARY:

²As this scene opens we find two men walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, which was about eight miles northwest of Jerusalem (24:13-17). These men were disciples (not apostles), and one of them was named Cleopas (24:18). As they walked they were discussing the events of the past several days, including Christ’s crucifixion and the reports of His resurrection. We get the impression that the men were disappointed because God had not done what they wanted Him to do. As they walked Jesus joined them but, they did not recognize Him (24:16). As He listened to their conversation, He asked why they were so sad (24:17). They asked Him if He was a stranger in the area and did not know all the things that had happened in Jerusalem that weekend (24:18). Jesus asked, “What things?” (24:19). Then they unfolded the account of how they had thought Jesus was the Messiah until His crucifixion had shattered their hopes (24:21). Now apparently these followers were there and heard the astonishing news that the women had given to the apostles. The women went to the tomb and not finding the Lord’s body; and they had seen angels telling them that Jesus had risen and is alive. There were also certain ones with them that even went to the tomb to see for themselves if this story was true and they also didn’t find the Lord’s body there! (24:22-24). (24:13-24).
At this, Jesus now speaks and calls them fools and slow of heart. He reprimands them for their unbelief. They were expected to have known more than others because they were believers. The two were feeling hopeless and perplexed, full of sadness and despair for one very simple reason: unbelief! He takes them back to the prophecies of the prophets. They heard all the prophets speak of this, but somehow did not believe what was spoken. He goes on by questioning them: Should not this be the process of Christ, for Him to suffer these things and then enter into His glory? Was this not the prediction of the prophets? Even beginning at Moses in the Book of Genesis and throughout the scriptures this was expounded upon? Jesus is giving them another bible lesson of Himself. It sounds like Jesus talking to Philip, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?" Jh.14:9. (24:25-27).

Now as they came near Emmaus, Jesus acts as if He’s going to keep going further. However, they begged Him to stay and He does, going home with them, and having supper with them. He takes the bread, blesses it, then breaks it, and gives it to them. It was something He did that triggered their eyes to be opened and finally they know it was Jesus. And in a moment He had vanished from their presence. Jesus opened the scriptures in such a way that made their hearts leap for joy to bring them out of sadness to exhilarating hope. The Word Jesus spoke, brought conviction within their hearts to now believe for them to say "Did not our hearts burn...as they talked by the way" They were filled with excitement and fire of the truth of what was said and what was done in their presence. The Messiah had truly risen and they had seen Him! (24:28-32).