

Gospel of Luke
Week 12 Summary
Luke 24:1–53

Despite Jesus' repeated announcement that he would be raised from the dead, the disciples continued to fail to hear properly. Therefore, the scene opens with these faithful women coming to honour Jesus by treating his body with spices. What they find instead is the stone all ready moved and the body missing. They lack understanding so they stand amazed until two angels announce that he is alive.

Both the angels word to remember and the women's act of remembering is more than a cognitive activity. Rather, it is the aligning of ones actions with ones convictions. Therefore, when the women remember Jesus' resurrection announcement, they have gained insight and understanding. We could say their eyes are opened.

In this account the women are not given instructions to tell the twelve, however they take on this role independently. Again, this is more than just telling what they have seen. They are sharing the spiritual insight they have gained and the apostles need. Unfortunately, despite Jesus' teaching on the kingdom, the women's testimony is not believed—for the most part. Peter does however believe something, so races to the tomb. He comes away with confusion not insight like the women.

Luke shifts the scene to two of the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus, intentionally leaving Jerusalem. This is a clue to us as readers as Jerusalem has been so central to Luke's story. The discipleship community is fragmenting in light of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus joins them but they are kept from recognizing him—again, spiritual insight is lacking.

Luke shows us irony in this as they wonder that he doesn't know what everyone else knows about Jesus' death. Yet, here is Jesus having a full-fledged conversation with them and they don't know who he is. In their conversation they have all the pieces, yet they do not see. But, just as in his ministry with them, this is an opportunity to restore sight. So, Jesus takes the time to show from Scripture as a whole, and the prophets in particular, that is story is the story.

These disciples may be heading away from Jerusalem and disappointed at the failure of their would be Messiah, but they remember the importance of hospitality. So, they invite Jesus in to stay with them and dine with them. Like so often in Luke, the dinner table is a place of transformation. Here everything changes as Jesus shifts from guest to host and their eyes are opened and they have insight. The awakening is reinforced as they head back to Jerusalem and they hear that Jesus has also appeared to Simon (likely the place of Peter's restoration).

Even as they joyfully speak of these appearances Jesus is in their midst speaking words of peace. This is a blessing which conveys God's *shalom* to those it is spoken to—Jesus is our peace! Yet, for all their insight there is still doubt. They think they are seeing a ghost, so Jesus shows them he is physical by allowing them to handle him and eating with them.

Having settled that it was truly him raised, not just from the dead but to the new age, he then opens their minds once more to the Scriptures, commissions them as his witnesses, and instructs them to wait for the Spirit (to be picked up in Acts). Finally, they watch him ascend and they obey his command to return to Jerusalem.