

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****LUKE 24****Luke 24**

Hallelujah! Jesus is risen from the dead! The chapter opens with the dawn on the first day of the week, Sunday on the Western calendar. Remember that on the Jewish calendar, Shabbat is the only day of the week that has a name; all the other days are numbered. Mary from Magdala and other women came to the tomb where they had seen Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, both members of the council, put Him in the tomb where no man had ever been laid. When they arrived, they found that the body of Jesus was not there. While they were standing there totally perplexed, immediately two angels appeared to them and announced that Jesus was no longer dead but was alive and for them to go and tell the other disciples that He was alive. The women were reminded that Jesus had predicted His death, burial, and resurrection while they were all together in the Galilee, and in another gospel, they were told to ask the disciples to meet Jesus in the place that Jesus had arranged to meet them after His death, burial, and resurrection.

Immediately, Luke shifts from the Garden near Calvary, Skull Hill, to disciples leaving Jerusalem and traveling to their homes in the city of Emmaus some seven miles west of the city of Jerusalem. The eleven, now minus Judas, the traitor, were hunkered down in a house within the city. Jesus appeared to the two while they were walking, and they did not recognize Him. They were talking about the events of the Passover and Jesus, whom they believed to be the Messiah, had been crucified. As they spoke, Jesus questioned them about their sad countenance, and they replied, "Are you the only person in this area who does not know what happened?" and they explained about Jesus. Jesus

immediately began to talk to them about the Messiah and His mission and purpose in dying for the sins of all and why that was necessary.

The two, now arriving at their home, asked Jesus to come into the house because of the lateness of the hour so that He might eat and perhaps spend the night. As they sat at the table and Jesus broke the bread and blessed the Father in heaven, they recognized it was the LORD, and He disappeared from their eyes. The two could not rest until they made their way back to Jerusalem to the place where the eleven disciples were staying. They announced that the women were not crazy, as they had supposed, but that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead! Jesus immediately appeared to them in a locked and secure room, and they were astonished! While they were beyond joyful, Jesus knew their hearts were having difficulty believing He was real, and so He showed them His hands which had been pierced, and His feet, where the nail had been. Jesus also wanted to show them that He was not just a spirit but that He could eat, and He proceeded to eat a piece of broiled fish and ate sweet honey. After a time with them in Jerusalem and then in the Galilee, Jesus brought them back to Jerusalem and took them to the Mount of Olives and ascended before their eyes. Before leaving, the Lord Jesus commissioned His followers to take the message of repentance and forgiveness to the end of the earth.

These events you have just read are but another chapter in the greatest story that has ever been told, about the greatest person who ever lived, and about the greatest gift that has been or will ever be given!

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Lord Jesus, thank You for all You have done and are doing for me. Thank You that You died for my sins, rose from the dead, and that You are coming back again! Please let me live my life as though Your coming could be today! Amen*