

SESSION TWENTY-FOUR: What am I to do now? *Luke 24 v 36-53*

Full Route

1. They are terrified (v 37) and “troubled” (v 38), and have “doubts” in their minds, because they think Jesus is a ghost (v 37, 39). They still can’t believe Jesus really has come back from the dead as a physical, real Jesus.

2. He stands among them (v 36)

He points out to them that he has flesh and bones, unlike a “ghost” (v 39).

He shows them his hands and feet (v 40), presumably because they still have the nail marks on them (see John 20 v 24-27).

He eats something (v 41-43).

3. It is the very opposite of what this passage says. The disciples thought Jesus was just a spirit (v 37), and He clearly thought it was crucial that they understood that He wasn’t. He said specifically He had “hands and feet ... flesh and bones” (v 39). His was a resurrected *body*—he had really come back to full life—he was present with them and no longer in the tomb (see v 2-3).

5. That it points to him and what he would do (v 44); and that it foretells that as God’s promised king—the Christ—Jesus will suffer (and die), and then rise (v 46). Verse 47 adds that the Old Testament also says that after the Christ suffers and rises, the message that “in his name” (ie: through knowing him) people who turn to him can have their sins forgiven will be told to all peoples.

6. A follower of Christ should read the Old Testament expecting it to tell them about Christ—about who he is and why he came.

7. The message that anyone who turns to Jesus can be forgiven will be told to everyone beginning in Jerusalem (where they were) (v 47); and it will begin being told to everyone by the people who have seen Jesus suffer and rise (v 48).

8. The heart of the Christian message is that the Christ has died (“suffered”) and risen on the third day (proving his identity and the truth of his message) (v 46), and so now anyone who turns back to him as their God and King can be forgiven for rejecting him as their King in the past (v 47). And the Christian message is for absolutely anyone (“all nations”, v 47). Everyone needs to repent and be forgiven, and anyone can repent and be forgiven.

9. From this passage, the Holy Spirit gives Jesus’ followers “power” to tell people about him. The Holy Spirit is God himself—so as Jesus, God the Son, left his friends on earth to return to heaven (v 51), it must have been very reassuring to know that God had not left them—he would continue to live with and in them, by his Spirit. For other things the Holy Spirit does for Jesus’ followers, see Session Twelve, Question Seven.