

## Understanding "The Great Commission": Luke 24:44-48

Something to think about before we begin:

The gospel of Luke is an excellent example of someone practicing personal evangelism. What was his concern as he set out to write what we know of as the gospel of Luke (and also Acts; cp Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-2)? How might we follow his example in seeking to reach those we know?

### **Luke 24:44-48 (see also Acts 1:8)**

According to Luke's gospel, what did Jesus say "**must** be fulfilled" (indicating that it had been)? [Luke 24:44; cp Matthew 1:22; 2:15, 17, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:35; 21:4-9; 26:54, 56; 27:9-10; Mark 1:15; 14:49; [15:28]; Luke 4:21; 22:16, 37; John 12:38; 13:18; 15:25; 17:12; 18:9; 19:24, 36; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 13:27, 33-35; etc)

What does Luke tell us Jesus then did for the apostles? From the text, in what **practical** way do we see Jesus do this? [Luke 24:45-46a; cp Acts 1:1-3; Mark 4:10-20; etc]

Analyze Jesus' words to the apostles *in the light of Personal Evangelism*:

"Thus it is written..." [Luke 24:46]

- If we are interested in knowing what we ought to share with others concerning the Christ, where should we begin? [cp 1 Peter 4:11; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; see Acts 1:16, 25, 34; 3:13, 18, 22, 24; 4:11; 7:2-50(!); 8:32-35; 10:43; 13:16-41(!), 47; 15:15-17; **17:2-3, 11**; 18:27-28; 19:8; 20:32; **26:22-23**; **28:23**, 25-28; etc]

"...that the Christ should suffer..." [Luke 24:46]

- In practical terms, what did Jesus (and therefore the apostles) specifically emphasize about Jesus in terms of His fulfilling the Scripture? [cp Acts 1:21-22; 2:23-32; 3:13-15, 22-26; 4:1-2, 9-11, 33; 5:27-32; 7:52; 10:36-41; 13:26-37; 17:2-3, 30-31; 23:6; 24:14-15, 20-21; 26:6-8, 22-23; see also Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; etc]

"...that the Christ should suffer **and** on the third day rise from the dead, **and**..." [Luke 24:46-47]  
- As Jesus spoke about the things that "**must** be fulfilled" concerning Him, note that He gave His suffering and His resurrection **equal** weight. After all, if He had suffered and died, but had not resurrected, He would not be the Christ! In practical terms, then, what does it mean that Jesus also gave **the same weight** here to the preaching of "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" as He gave to His suffering and resurrection?

"You are witnesses of these things." [Luke 24:48]

- In practical terms, we are not "witnesses" of the things we wish to share with others concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ - but neither was Luke! (cp Luke 1:1-4) How might we follow Luke's example in seeking to reach those we know? [cp 2 Pet 1:16-21; 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:30-31]

- Since we are not "witnesses" in the truest sense, we ought to use wisdom and caution in our "testimony" about the Christ. In practical terms, what kinds of things might be the most helpful in sharing with those we hope will come to the Lord, and what kinds of things might be least helpful, distracting, or even misleading?

***May the Lord help us to LOVE what Jesus did and LOVE OTHERS enough to TELL them!!***