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It Is True! The Lord Has Risen

Luke 24:33-35 and First Corinthians 15:5

About 7 pm on Sunday the seventeenth of Nisan

It is true! The Lord has risen. DIG: Why did the two disciples go the extra mile to reach the apostles in Tziyon? Who was missing from the group? Why did it say there was eleven talmidim, while Paul claimed that there was twelve? Why was it important that Jesus see Peter first?

REFLECT: Have you ever gone the extra mile, literally or figuratively, to tell someone about the risen Lord? If you had to explain four facts of the gospel to an interested friend, what would you say? When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, was it something slow and gradual or was it quick and dramatic?



Despite the fact that it was now dark, when people didn't normally travel, and **the City** was several hours away, the **two disciples** who talked with **Jesus** on the road to Emmaus **got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. They** felt compelled to share the news that **Messiah** had risen from the dead. **There they found eleven talmidim**, minus **Thomas the Twin**, and those with them, **assembled together** and saying: **It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon. Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how they recognized Yeshua when He broke the bread with them at their table (Luke 24:33-35). The apostles** now had four separate reports of the resurrection: Mary Magdalene, the women, **Peter**, and **Cleopas** and **his** traveling companion.

And sometime earlier that day, **Jesus had appeared to Simon. This was the fourth appearance of Jesus after His resurrection.** Among the apostles, **Simon Peter** was the first to see the resurrected **Messiah**. Paul tells us: **For what I received I passed on to you as first importance: the Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the TaNaKh, and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve (First Corinthians 15:3-5).** Rabbi Sha'ul says **the Twelve** because **the twelfth apostle** had already been chosen to replace Judas by the time he wrote **First Corinthians**.

The Lord's appearance to **Simon** in **Tziyon** should not to be confused with **Messiah's** later meeting with **Peter** later in Galilee. The reference to **Simon** rather than **Peter** points us back to **Luke 22:31-32**, where **Jesus** said: **Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, so that your faith may not fail. And when you have repented (to see link click [Lk](#) - Peter Denies Jesus Three Times) and turned to Me again (see [Mn](#) - Jesus Reinstates Peter), strengthen your brothers, the apostles.**

Jesus had given **Peter the keys to the Kingdom** (see [Fx](#) - On This Rock I Will Build My Church). Whenever the words **key** or **keys** is used symbolically in the Bible, it always symbolizes the authority to open or close doors (**Jud 3:25; 1 Chron 9:27; Isa 22:20-24; Mt 16:19a; Rev 1:18, 3:7, 9:1 and 20:1**). **Peter** will be responsible to open the doors of the **Church**. **He** will have a special role in the book of **Acts**. In the Dispensation of the Torah, humanity was divided into two groups, Jews and Gentiles. But in the Dispensation of Grace, because of what went on in the inter-testamental period, there were three groups of people, Jews, Gentiles and Samaritans (**Mt 10:5-6**). **Peter** would be the **key** person (pun intended) in bringing in the Jews (see my commentary on **Acts An - Peter Speaks to the Shavu'ot Crowd**), the Samaritans (see my commentary on **Acts Ba - Simon the Sorcerer**), and the Gentiles (see my commentary on **Acts Bg - Peter Goes to the House of Cornelius**) into **the Church** by receiving **the Ruach**. Once **he** opened the door it stayed open.

Therefore, it was important that **Peter** actually see the risen **Lord** and verify that fact to the other **talmidim**. **Kefa** was **their** leader and if **he** believed it, it would go a long way toward substantiating what **Cleopas** and **his companion** had said. Now the unbelief, with its resulting sorrow and fear, had given way to the joy of faith in the resurrection of **Christ**.