

Commissions

May 30, 2021: Luke 24:36-39

We conclude our six-month study of Luke's gospel with today's lesson. God has a mission for you! To prove He is resurrected, Jesus appears to His disciples who are behind locked doors. He invited the disciples to touch him so they would know that he was real and present.

Maybe that's why Jesus asked the disciples for something to eat after telling them he was not a ghost, but real in their time and space. It was Jesus' way of reassuring the disciples that, having left the earthly realm during his crucifixion, he had now re-entered the earthly realm for a short while. He had done so to reassure them that nothing—not even death—could separate them from His presence.

Knowing their concerns, Jesus gave them a gift, the gift of peace. *"Peace be with you,"* Jesus said. Then, he questioned them. *"Why are you troubled, and do doubts arise in your minds?"* Those are questions we must all face at some point in time. Why are we troubled when Christ has proven his presence with us no matter where we may be?

Before Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission, He commissioned them with peace. Without peace, there is no power. Even today, Jesus is commissioning us with His peaceful presence so we may have the power to be His followers. [excerpts from Glen Schmucker]

Assures (Luke 24:36-43)

- Before the disciples could be effective witnesses for Jesus, three things must occur:
 - The disciples had to be assured of Jesus' resurrection;
 - They had to understand Jesus' mission on Earth had been completed;
 - Finally, they would need the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus to a lost world.
 - As Cleopas and the other follower from Emmaus recounted their encounter with Jesus to the disciples, ***"Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them ... Peace be unto you."***
 - Behind locked doors for fear of being arrested by the Jewish leaders, the disciples were terrified to see Jesus appear before them. ***"supposed that they had seen a spirit."***
 - Although His glorified body was definitely physical, Jesus was not bound by laws of physics.
 - Jesus began to teach them through a series of questions: ***"Why are ye troubled and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?"*** - Thoughts describe a struggle, they couldn't believe their eyes.
 - Jesus then ***"shewed them His hands and His feet."*** They looked, touched and understood. Jesus was alive, His body was real. Then Jesus asked for food and ***"he took it and did eat before them."*** This was no apparition. **JESUS WAS ALIVE !**
 - Jesus' physical resurrection is fundamental to our faith.
 - Eyewitnesses to His resurrection body include over five hundred people at one time! (1 Cor. 15:6)
- **What assurances do people need to accept the risen Christ?**
- **How does our testimony show we know He is alive?**



Opens (Luke 24:44-46)

- ***“The words which I spake unto you ...”***

- On several occasions before the crucifixion, Jesus told His followers about his impending death and resurrection.
- Luke’s gospel records three of those occasions – Luke 19:21-22; 9:42-44; and 18:31-33.



- ***“While I was still with you”*** – It must have seemed unusual to hear Jesus talk in past tense (to the time prior to the crucifixion). Jesus was with them now, but in His resurrected body.
- Similar to the way he helped Cleopas and the other follower on the road the Emmaus, Jesus expounded upon the Old Testament Scripture from Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms.
 - He helped them understand these prophecies were spiritual truths.
 - ***“He opened their understanding”*** – They had learned these Scriptures from their childhood but failed to grasp the meaning as applied to the Messiah.
- ***“It behoved Christ to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day”*** – Jesus was not a victim, He fulfilled God’s plan of salvation from sin so you and I might be saved.

➤ ***Why did the disciples have such difficulty understanding Jesus’ teachings?***

➤ ***How can we help others understand the necessity of Jesus death and resurrection?***

Sends (Luke 24:47-49)

- The Great Commission to Jesus’ disciples and followers is to preach repentance of sins ***“to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*** Yes even the Gentiles were to be saved.
 - Forgiveness is proclaimed ***“in His name.”*** Jesus is the only name given among men whereby we might be saved. Jesus Christ has won the victory over Satan and sin.
- ***“I send the promise of my Father upon you”*** – The power of the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus reminded them they were firsthand eyewitnesses. But He knew they would need the power of the Holy Spirit to succeed in their mission to preach repentance of sin to the world.
- Jesus told them to tarry “in the city of Jerusalem” until the Spirit endued them with power. The disciples remained in Jerusalem and on Pentecost (50 days after His resurrection, 10 days after Jesus Ascension) the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples for their mission. [read Acts 1 and 2]
- As believers, we are sent to tell all people about the forgiveness of sin found in Jesus. We share the gospel with others in the power of the Holy Spirit

➤ ***To whom has God sent you to be His witness?***

➤ ***Does the Holy Spirit give you confidence to share about Jesus?***

Biblical Truth:

Jesus commissioned His followers to proclaim the gospel.

“Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Luke 24:49

King James Version

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Important Note to GPBC Members. Next week on June 6 we will begin meeting in our Sunday School classrooms for in person bible study at 9:45AM. Hard copies of our lesson plans will be distributed in class. We will no longer post these Bible Studies on our website since we can now meet in person.

Praise God for bringing us through the COVID-19 pandemic. Amen.