

Mount Olive Life Guide

April 17-19, 2020

Luke 24:36-49 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Context: The Emmaus disciples had joined the disciples in the locked room. They shared their news about their walk with Jesus and the disciples shared their news about Jesus appearing to Mary and to Peter.

1. v.37: “...thinking they saw a ghost...” *The superstitious fear in 1st century AD was that if you saw a ghost there would soon be a tragedy. The fear was that someone (probably you) was going to die. Other than this fear of a ghost, there are other reasons the disciples may have been frightened.*

What did the disciples **know** that frightened them?

- *Jesus had died*
- *The Jews hated them*
- *They had run from Jesus in Gethsemane*

What were things the disciples **didn't know** for sure, and this also frightened them?

- *Was Jesus **really** alive?*
- *Would the Jews hunt them down?*
- *If Jesus was alive, would he forgive their cowardice?*

2. Jesus showed the disciples his hands and feet. Jesus told them to touch him. Jesus asked for food. His goal: prove to them that he was alive. A wonderful truth: “God always gives his children the evidence he knows they need.”

Examples from the Bible: pillar of cloud, Moses' staff, Gideon, Elijah & prophets of Baal, Jesus heals the paralytic, calms storms, fed thousands.

Present day examples: Sacraments; the Church still stands, medical miracles

3. Why did Jesus draw out his Easter Sunday victory march? Why not appear to everyone at once? Or appear to Mary, and then tell her, “I’ll stay here...go and get all of the disciples and come back to the cemetery?”
Jesus would gone in 40 days. They needed to put trust in God’s Word, not in visible presence of Jesus
4. v. 44: “He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’” Why would Jesus point the disciples back to what was written about him?

written testimony of Scripture is the basis of our hope and confidence

5. Jesus’ resurrection destroys fear. Our fears of what is known, and our fears of what is unknown.
 - a. Fears of what we know: *varies for each Christian*
 - b. Fears of what we don’t know: *varies for each Christian*
6. What is the best antidote for our fears? *all of God’s promises in Word and Sacrament*