

Study on Luke 24:36-49

***While the two were telling them this, suddenly the Lord himself stood among them.... They were terrified, think that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, “Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming into your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bone, as you can see I have” (Luke 24:36-49).**

***Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you” (Luke 24:45-49).**

***Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, and do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15b, 16a).**

DVD Spot: Jesus DVD based on Luke’s Gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWYule8ftHA>

*From 1:51:15 – 1:53:00

Discussion Questions:

1) How are you coping with the Corona virus pandemic, and being shut at home? What part do you think “fear” plays in your thinking, and in the thinking of people in general? What are people afraid of?

2) If you were one of the disciples who saw Jesus alive again that Easter Sunday evening, what would you be saying to your family and friends about the events of Easter? What would you say the raising of Jesus from the dead means for you?

3) As a Christian, what gives you hope for the future? Are you afraid of the future? Are you afraid of death and dying? Why or why not?

4) How has the Good News of Jesus changed your life? Share with one another your Life Story: how you came to faith, how you grew in faith, and what Jesus means to you.

5) Who does God want you to share your Life Story with? Do you feel able to share your Life Story with others? Will you be acting on your own as you do this?

Talk about your attempts to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

*Exercise: Make up a Time Line of your life. Write in the important events, and what God was doing in your life at the different stages in your life. Then use this to write up your Life Story: the story of your life and how God has worked in your life.

Quotes:

The following are quotes Sunday's message on the theme: "The story of your encounter with Jesus":

The wonderful news of Jesus and the Christian faith is that we *can* face the future and death without fear and with a certain hope. We can do that because we know through Jesus, God's Son, that we are loved by God and precious to Him, we know that Jesus has rescued us by suffering and dying "for our sins" on the cross, and we know that death isn't the end, *that just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so He will raise us from the dead when Jesus comes again in glory at the Last Day (1 Cor. 15:20; 1 Thess. 4:13).

***But the reality is that so few people around us know this wonderful good news.... How can they get to know this life transforming news?! Through you and me sharing this Good News with our friends and neighbours and work mates....**

Oh, I know that most of us feel somewhat inadequate with regards to telling others what we believe. We know that we should do it, but we don't know how to do it, and we feel guilty for not doing it!!!? We tend to justify our lack of telling others about Jesus by saying that we show others our faith by the way that we live. And that's great as far as it goes, but **unless we open our mouth and tell other people why our life is changed, they won't know, and they will continue to face the future with fear and without hope.**

* Imagine what one of the disciples of Jesus would have shared with his family and friends:

"We were sure Jesus was the promised Messiah, the King that God promised He would send. But then he was crucified as a criminal on a cross. He was dead, and we thought that he had died accursed by God, and that he wasn't really the Messiah and God's Son as he said he was.

But then God raised him from the dead. We saw him alive!! We touched him, and he even ate some fish in front of us. He's alive!! He really is God's Son who came to suffer and to die for us: he took on himself the punishment that you and I deserve from God, and as we trust in him as our Saviour, we are forgiven by Him.

And not only that! When he left us and went back to God, his Father, he sent the Holy Spirit to us as he promised. And the Holy Spirit of God in us has changed us. He's given us the courage to go out and tell others about Jesus, and He's changed the way that we live. He's given us the power to follow Jesus and to live as Jesus did. I'm a changed person since I met Jesus!"

***So I want to encourage this morning to share your story with your friends and those around you, and to make a difference in their life, *and the way that they face the future*. This is not just what I want you to do. This is what God wants you to do!**

Listen to what Peter says in his first letter:

Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, and do it with gentleness and respect (*1 Peter 3:15b, 16a*).

And always remember that you are not on your own as you share your life story with others: the Holy Spirit of God lives in you and he will give the strength to share your story, and even the words (*Acts 1:8; cf. Mark 13:11*).

***May God bless you and me as we bring hope into the lives of the people around us, *not a wishy washy hope, but a certain hope so that we and they can face the future and even death without fear*.**