



Sermon Series: He Changed Me, Part 6

Sermon Title: Witness

Date: 4/9/2023

Luke 24:36-47

There are several important details in this passage:

- Jesus miraculously appeared to them.
- Then, He invited the disciples to look at his hands and feet
- to touch him
- and give him some food to eat
- Finally, Jesus taught them

The Disciples became eyewitnesses, and the world started to change!
The disciples lived out the challenge to be a witness.

For you and me, the challenge is to

Be a witness! Proclaim Jesus is alive, and see what God does!

Who were the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection - life after death?

A. Women were the first Witnesses

Luke 24:1-11

Mary Magdalene (John 20.13-16)

Joanna (wife of Chuza) Luke 24.10

Mary, Mother of James Luke 24.10

Mary, Mother of Jesus

Mary (wife of Clopas)

Salome (mother of James and John) Mark 16.1

They were a strange but powerful group of witnesses because Jewish women could offer testimony in domestic, family, and private law but would not function this way as public witnesses or public spokesmen.

But Peter took their word and RAN to the TOMB to see it empty.

B. Men were Witnesses

Luke 24.28-31

This happens just before the moment in our main passage when Jesus presented himself to all his disciples.

C. 500 people were Witnesses

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

How reliable could these witnesses be? Let's Apply the Reliability factors for eyewitnesses set by the US Supreme Court:

- (1) the eyewitness's opportunity to view the defendant at the time of the event; (**Jesus presented himself to the people face to face.**)
- (2) the eyewitness's degree of attention; (**They were locked on**)
- (3) the accuracy of the description that the eyewitness gave of the person; (**the resurrected one: they knew Jesus intimately**)
- (4) the eyewitness's level of certainty at the time of the identification procedure; (**Completely certain, to the point of being killed for what they said about Jesus being Alive and ready to forgive sin**)
- (5) the length of time that had elapsed between the event and the identification procedure. **Three days ago!**

Our Most Important Witness:

D. You are a Witness!

1. at some point, you came face to face with faith in Jesus
2. you were focused on Him and your need for salvation
3. you have the bible to describe Jesus for you
4. You are certainly ready to tell about the resurrection
5. You have come to faith and can tell others how it happened.

As a witness, YOU give testimony to:

1. Tremendous Power of God (in creating, in creation now, in human lives, over death)
- nothing certain but death and taxes (and resurrection)
2. Belief in the resurrection is the first step of belief in God's plan of salvation for YOU
3. Proves who Jesus is: a spotless, sinless substitute for YOU
4. Proves Jesus' words: suffer death and rise on the third day BUT trust his word in returning and the future for YOU of eternal life for believers and eternal torment for non-believers. (I am the resurrection)
5. He changed the witnesses – can you say: “He Changed Me?”

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Why is eyewitness testimony so important?**
- **Are there any rational arguments that can be made about the credibility of the eyewitnesses to the empty tomb? How can you defend against them?**
- **Why do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus? (What are the reasons?)**
- **Why is your belief in the resurrection of Jesus so extremely important in your life is a witness to the power of God?**