



# First Baptist Church Selmer

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE • PROOF! • LUKE 24:33-43 • 4/16/2023

## MAIN POINT

Jesus did and still does desire that all mankind, everywhere, come to know Him.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What is the greatest thing that you have witnessed in your life?**

**Is there anything that is a close second? What made it so special?**

There are so many things that can be listed as the most amazing thing that people have ever witnessed. Personally, I would say the birth of my children would be at the top of my list but there are some others that are up there as well.

Some may list places they have traveled or once-in-a-lifetime events. So many things...

But... could you have imagined seeing Jesus here on earth? Not just in human form but to hear His audible voice, sit under His teachings, and follow in His literal footsteps.

Today's passage speaks of a time that almost seems unbelievable when you first read it. Jesus appears to His disciples following His resurrection to encourage them, eat with them, and give proof to them that He was the Son of God.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:33-35.

33 "And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of bread.

**How excited do you think the disciples were to inform the others about what they had just witnessed?**

**Why is good news so hard to keep quiet?**

The Road to Emmaus was some seven miles from Jerusalem. It may have been a long seven miles to get there originally but it hardly seems it took as long on the way back with the news of Jesus' resurrection. The confirmation they received was more than enough to boldly proclaim, "The Lord has risen indeed."

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:36-43.

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you!' 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, 'What are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them."  
(ESV)

**What would your group's reaction be if Jesus suddenly was standing in the middle of the room?**

**Why didn't some disciples believe Jesus even after having physical proof of His resurrection?**

**What do you think this tells us about the nature of doubt?**

For the disciples of Jesus, their hope was to see Jerusalem restored and have Israel freed from corruption on the inside and from oppression on the outside. Their hope was to have peace and quiet and live their lives. But with the resurrection of Jesus, His calling on their lives did not limit them to Israel; it opened their eyes to the world. Jerusalem was not going to be a restored safe

haven for the saved, but it would become a launching pad for Jesus' global mandate. As Luke described in Acts, just as Jesus had focused on Jerusalem, so too His disciples would focus on the ends of the earth.

**In what way did Jesus attempt to silence their doubts?**

**What do you think the scars in Jesus' hands and feet meant to the disciples? What does it mean to us?**

Jesus showed the disciples His hands and feet. In this, Jesus wanted to establish both His identity and His bodily existence. Although He was alive, He still bore the scars of His crucifixion. Jesus wanted to leave no doubt that He was not resurrected in only a spiritual state but He, Himself, had resurrected bodily from the tomb. Even today, the scars remind us of the love that Christ has for each of us.

**How does the way that Jesus appeared suddenly before the disciples reflect the way that He encounters our lives and disrupts our schedules?**

Jesus' disciples needed to understand something about the Scriptures and something about power. Even though Jesus had risen from the dead and His disciples had touched His hands and feet, some still did not believe. Their minds and hearts did not have the ability to take in the reality before them. Besides giving them even more physical proof, Jesus directed them to the Scriptures. Luke said He "opened their minds" so that they could understand the things written about Him in these Scriptures. Jesus broke down all the different parts of the Hebrew Bible—the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms—which comprise the Old Testament in our Bibles today. In other words, a key to understanding Jesus is seeing that His life, death, and resurrection were, in fact, no surprise at all. Even though Jesus caught everyone off guard—the entire Old Testament pointed to Him!

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What would change in your life if you were to see Jesus here on earth?**

**How can we encourage one another to silence the doubts we have about living out our lives in full obedience to the will of God?**

**In what ways does Jesus need to disrupt our schedules so that we can refocus on the mission?**

# PRAYER

Pray for the willingness to participate in God's mission globally in any way He sees fit. Give thanks to God for choosing to involve you in the expansion of His Kingdom.

# COMMENTARY

## | LUKE 24:33-43

24:33. Recognition of Jesus spurred the two disciples to action. The realization of what happened got them moving again that very hour. The news of Jesus' resurrection could not wait. Immediately they went back to Jerusalem. Upon their return, the two found the Eleven.

24:34. Before the Emmaus residents reported, the others confirmed, "The Lord has certainly been raised." They had received evidence via the eyewitness experience of Simon (Peter). This confirmed the best news possible—Jesus was alive!

24:35. The Emmaus disciples added their testimony of Jesus' appearance to them on the road earlier that day and later during the breaking of the bread. These encounters with Jesus changed the hearts of all believers. They rose from a state of despair to utter joy.

24:36-37 It is ironic that the group of disciples was startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost when the risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. After all, they had been rejoicing about His resurrection (v. 34) and swapping stories about His several appearances that day. But their fear is understandable since Jesus appeared suddenly in the middle of a crowd in what was surely a locked room. Peace to you was a traditional Jewish greeting.

24:38-40 Jesus calmed the fears and doubts of His disciples with evidence of His resurrection body. In His hands and feet the nail scars were clearly visible. The crowd of disciples could touch Him and verify that He had a human body and that He was not a ghost.

24:40-43 It is understandable that some were slow to believe. This was a highly unusual and unexpected event. Realizing their doubts, Jesus offered an additional piece of evidence. He showed them that He could eat food ( a piece of a broiled fish), something no ghost could do.