

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

May 5, 2019

The Business of Transformation

LUKE

Luke 24:36-53

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."^[a] ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? "Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[a] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses^[a] of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **Luke 24:36-38; 47-49**

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

In this last passage of Luke, we find the disciples frightened and behind locked doors, believing they are seeing a ghost and not Jesus. This is a reminder of the walls we often build around ourselves when we are afraid, unwilling, or overwhelmed. **How does this encourage you that Jesus faithfully finds you, and extends grace to you, in spite of your doubts and fears?**

In order to help the disciples understand, Jesus again points them to scripture, reminding them of God's plan from the beginning. As we learn to base our lives on scripture, it's important to measure our understanding of the character of God and how He works, or our "gospel fluency." **Consider your current measure of gospel fluency, and how you fight your own doubts and fears by going to scripture for guidance and understanding:**

- 1) Unconsciously incompetent (no knowledge or awareness of scripture)
- 2) Consciously incompetent (awareness of our lack of knowledge and understanding of scripture)
- 3) Consciously competent (building competency, but living in the word is not yet fully natural)
- 4) Unconsciously competent (naturally able to allow the gospel to fill and guide our lives)

When we allow the gospel to guide and inform our lives, it makes it easier to understand that we are each sent by Christ in our own unique way. Jesus did not send the disciples until He filled them with knowledge and the power of the Holy Spirit. Our call is no different -- nor is the call of Christ meant to make us comfortable. When we become more fluent in the gospel, though, we are positioned to share the love of Christ more naturally and joyfully with those around us. **Trusting that our call is to go and be sent, where would you place yourself in this process? Where might be God calling you to extend your circles this week?**

Dear Heavenly Father, strengthen us through your Word and through the power of your Holy Spirit to more joyfully and naturally follow where your call might take us. Help us to fight our own doubts and fears, with the reassurance that the disciples experienced no less than we do. May your Word be alive to us today, and a guide and comfort to our path. **Amen.**