

SEEING IS BELIEVING
Luke 24:36-49

I. SEEING JESUS

- A. *“Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself ...” (Luke 24:38-39)*
- B. Get inside the story.
 - 1. “We really can’t hear what the stories of the Bible are saying unless we hear them as stories about ourselves.” (Buechner)
 - 2. We have to imagine our way into them.
 - 3. It’s easy to imagine ourselves as those first disciples.
- C. No one believed – at first.
 - 1. All doubted that life came from the grave – at first.
 - 2. None thought that the cross was anything but a cross – at first.
 - 3. There was a movement beyond doubt to faith.
- D. The eyes of the heart.
 - 1. “What we have to remember is that our eyes are not all we have for seeing with, maybe not even the best we have.” (Buechner)
 - 2. “Faith in the risen Christ is not an achievement. It is a gift ... Christ has come to you.” (Willimon)

II. SEEING OUR DESTINY

- A. *Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. (24:45)*
- B. What would they have become?
 - 1. Would they have plunged life-deep into hate?
 - 2. Would they have been “walking dead men” just going through the motions of life?
- C. What they did become.
 - 1. Powerful and purposeful!
 - 2. Committed to the cause of Christ.
- D. What are we called to become?
 - 1. We’re called to move beyond everything we’ve known, to live lives we’ve never dared to live.
 - 2. A spiritual inventory: How is your prayer life growing? How is your discipleship growing? How is your evangelism going?

III. SEEING OTHERS

- A. *“You are witnesses of these things.” (24:48)*
- B. Kicking the traps.
 - 1. We are constantly getting trapped in the wrong values & lifestyles.
 - 2. Someone once commented: “The *door* of culture, as opposed to the *door* of Christ, invites us into the wrong *pasture*.”
- C. What are we missing?
 - 1. “The most miserable, pitiful, smashed up life could blossom again if it would only blossom for others.”
 - 2. Take a boy fishing!

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Melvin Dowling, Kay Fowlkes, Gordon Freeman, Mac Kerr, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Mildred Sentell, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Ray Billings, Kenneth Blackburn, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Cledus Creel, Jimmy Eubanks, Angela Fisher, Nancy Godsey, Jean Hansford, Fern Haslop, Dorothy Huffstutter, Kristi Jackson, Jeff Joyner, Mary Lou Lepping, Van Lynch, Judy Malaquias, Catherine Mattheus, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, Teresa Patrick, David Petrie, Patrick Ramage, Florine Rickeman, Joe Rueff, the tornado victims ...*

Christian sympathy is extended to *Donald Lummus and family* in the death of his aunt, *Mary Elizabeth Roberts*, who died on Wednesday, April 19.

PASTORAL PRAYER

(William Barclay)

O God, our Father, help us all through this week to live in such a way that we may bring help to others, credit to ourselves, joy to those who love us, and praise to you.

Help us to be,

Cheerful when things go wrong;
Persevering when things are difficult;
Serene when things are irritating.

Enable us to be,

Helpful to those in trouble;
Kind to those in need;
Sympathetic to those whose hearts are hurting.

Grant that,

Nothing may make us lose our temper;
Nothing may take away our joy;
Nothing may disturb our peace;
Nothing may make us bitter towards any person.

We pray that all through this week all people with whom we work, all that we may meet, may see in us a reflection of the Master, whose we are, and whom we seek to serve. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

LUKE 24:36-49

As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

May 7	<i>The Good Shepherd</i>	John 10:11-18
	Holy Communion	
May 14	<i>A Life Giving Connection</i>	John 15:1-8
	Mother's Day	
May 21	<i>The Heart of the Matter</i>	John 15:9-17
May 28	<i>Keep Them from the Evil One</i>	John 17:6-19

On the Radio (1450 AM):

May 7	<i>Approval Addiction</i>	Matthew 6:1-18
May 14	<i>Singing in Jail</i>	Acts 16:16-34
May 21	<i>The Drum-Major Instinct</i>	Mark 10:32-39
May 28	<i>Encounters</i>	Luke 10:25-37