

**St. Luke's Anglican Parish of Modbury and Golden Grove.**

Sunday, April 14th, 2024

**Luke 24 LABC 36-48**

I'd want to reflect on and recall my own experiences with fear of the unknown and confronting the familiar during the Covid-19 pandemic. Working in healthcare settings is what we must leave with every day. The fear of returning home will infect the entire household. Similarly, families are terrified of community-acquired diseases. Children come home from school carrying a virus. Even before the epidemic, dealing with the threat of terrorism is an unanticipated reality. I assume politicians are arguing the origins of pandemics and how to prevent or eliminate them. Similarly, Christian communities were subjected to a perpetual state of dread, prompting the implementation of various precautionary measures.

While the disciples were discussing the events surrounding Christ's crucifixion, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." NRSV He appeared to them behind shut doors (John 20:19). Jesus was able to do this because his resurrection and glorification transformed his physical form. In his new physique, he was able to overcome all physical limitations. In other words, Jesus was able to transcend the physical limits.

Jesus' first words to his unbelieving and perplexed friends and disciples, all of whom had abandoned him in his hour of greatest need, were, "Peace be with you." This was a standard Hebrew greeting, but it held more significance in this context. Jesus conveyed a message of peace, and his presence provided peace.

**24:37-39** Faith does not work within the range of possibility. What is humanly feasible does not bring honour to God. Faith begins when man's power expires. (George Mueller.)

George Müller was a Christian evangelist who directed the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England. He was a founding member of the Plymouth Brethren movement. Later, following the schism, his group was dubbed the Open Brethren. (en.wikipedia.orgText under the CC-BY-SA licence).

They were astonished and scared, believing they had seen a ghost. Christ asked them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds?" Look at my hands and feet. It is I, me! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones as I do." NIV The disciples who remained in the closed room were still dealing with the reality that Jesus' corpse was missing, when they heard incredible claims about his appearances to numerous members of their group.

Suddenly, the missing body was among them; they had not even begun to think, if Jesus was truly alive, what his body might be like. Jesus appeared among them unexpectedly, and they were shocked and terrified, believing

they had seen a ghost. However, Jesus' body was not a fabrication of their imagination, nor were they seeing a ghost.

Jesus invited them to look and touch. He had flesh and bones and could eat food (24:43). His body, however, was not a rebuilt human body like Lazarus' (John 11)—he could appear and go. Jesus' resurrected body was immortal.

### **LET JESUS TEACH YOU**

Jesus helped people grasp the scriptures. The Holy Spirit performs this in the lives of believers today as they study or read the Bible.

Have you ever wondered how to understand a difficult Bible passage? In addition to reading surrounding sections, asking others, and studying reference materials, pray that the Holy Spirit may open your mind to understanding, providing you with the insight you need to put God's Word into action in your life.

**Luke 24:40-43** As he spoke, he displayed his hands and feet. Nonetheless, they stood there in disbelief, full of delight and awe. Then he said, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They offered him a piece of roasted salmon, which he ate while they watched. NLT Jesus showed them his hands and feet, revealing the scars caused by the nails that had fastened him to the cross (John 20:25). His resurrected body still retained these wounds, proving to his supporters that he was the same guy they had loved, followed, and watched die.

This was too wonderful to be true, and they felt the mixed emotions of incredulity, doubt, excitement, and astonishment that anyone would feel when their most desired but seemingly unattainable wish came true. Jesus stood among them, living, and even ate a piece of fish to demonstrate that he was not a ghost. He was real, and he returned to life exactly as he had promised.

### **JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES IN JERUSALEM 24:44-49.**

This time, He did not return to Jerusalem after his resurrection to put on a great performance or exact retribution on his enemies. Instead, he returned to instruct his disciples.

He had already trained them while he was with them, but they had not fully comprehended him (see 9:45; 18:34). During his last days, he taught them again.

This time, Jesus enlightened their minds to the truth: His life, death, and resurrection fulfilled Scripture. In Acts 1:4-5, 7-8, Luke emphasises that Jesus taught them to be His witnesses and share what they had seen and heard with others.

## Repentance and Forgiveness

24:44-45 Then he said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then Jesus opened their minds, allowing them to grasp the Scriptures.

NIV Many days may have passed between 24:43 and 24:44 because Jesus and his disciples travelled to and from Galilee before ascending to heaven (Matthew 28:16; John 21). Acts, Luke's second book, records that Jesus spent forty days with his followers between his resurrection and ascension.

As he had done with the two on the way to Emmaus, Jesus opened their minds to help them grasp the Scriptures and demonstrated how everything written about the coming Messiah had been fulfilled in him. "The Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms" describes the entire Old Testament. In other words, the entire Old Testament refers towards the Messiah.

For example, Deuteronomy 18:15-20 foreshadowed Jesus' status as a prophet, his sufferings in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, and his resurrection in Psalm 16:9-11 and Isaiah 53:10-11.

**24:46-48** He told them, "This is what it says: Christ will suffer and rise from the grave on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all countries, beginning in Jerusalem. "You are witnesses to these things." NIV

Not only were the Old Testament Scriptures fulfilled in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, but the Old Testament also spoke of repentance and forgiveness of sins to be proclaimed... to all nations.

Luke was writing for the Greek-speaking world. He wanted them to understand that Christ's message of God's love and forgiveness should be spread throughout the world—and that this had been God's purpose from the beginning. Christ's gospel has a global reach.

God desires that the good news of salvation reach every corner of the planet. The apostle Paul, a former Pharisee and Old Testament student, later testified: "I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:22-23 NIV). Isaiah wrote: "

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Amen.*

