

Devotion

Luke 24:35-48

The Word of God

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

Some thoughts on today's scripture

Peace is not just the absence of conflict, but a deep sense of knowing all will be well! As he appears he so often says firstly 'do not be afraid!' Am I fearful? Do I need to pray for trust in God, trust in my life, maybe an important relationship which is strained?

'Why are you frightened'? Jesus is our consoler! His wounded hands, feet and side; reminders of his incredible love for us and all of this wonderful creation.

Jesus is keen to reassure his friends that he is not a ghost, but the same one as before, though in a new state. The strongest proof of this identity are his wounds, a clear sign that 'that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day'. Yet they are also signs that 'repentance and the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations.' Death and life are closely linked, yet life has the last word.

Jesus tells his friends that they are to be his witnesses. He asks that of me too, and I pray to be a faithful witness of the Resurrection and of the good news about the forgiveness of sins. Like the Apostles, I can only witness what I have already experienced, and I ask for a heart open to Jesus' presence in my life.

Our Christian call is four fold: to hear His word, to accept His word, to follow His word and to spread His word.

Take this journey in prayer. Walk with the disciples and feel their fear and anxiety and sense of being let down. Feel their hope also that maybe his promise to rise will be fulfilled. What might this bring up in you? The darkness and the light, shared on the journey, hour by hour, with the Lord of light. Walk and listen; let Jesus remind you of the Scripture that brings trust, peace and confidence.

Prayer

Lord, you wish me to leave the safety of my private upper room and meet you as you come to me daily in the streets. But first let me be with you in prayer, waiting for the power of your Holy Spirit. Armed with this gift let me go forth to witness to you in word and deed.

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