

Conversations on
Luke 24:36b–48

Discuss this passage in light of the commentary below.

Idea! Listen together to “No Doubt” by Petra. Discuss: The lyrics talk about winters of doubt and seasons of faith. How does that image relate to the disciples’ lives? How does it relate to your life? How does God use our times of doubt to make us grow?

WHAT is important to know?

The opening scene is one of a noisy gathering of folks trying to put together their experiences, their memories of Jesus, and their hopes and fears. We can divide this passage into four acts in order to watch how Luke moves us toward the wonderful ending of this Gospel: (1) “Look at me”: First proof that Jesus is not a ghost/spirit; (2) “He ate [it] in their presence”: Second proof that Jesus is not a spirit/ghost; (3) “He opened their minds to understand the scriptures”: Third proof that Jesus’ death and resurrection are part of his lordship; (4) “You are witnesses”: Jesus’ description of and call to the group. (*Sarah S. Henrich*)

- ✪ How does this division into four acts shed light on Luke’s progression toward the ending of this Gospel?
- ✪ Why is it significant that Jesus offered three proofs before he issued a call to the disciples?

WHERE is God in these words?

In this passage, Jesus’ visitation has a twofold agenda: to enlighten the disciples about the Christ and to commission them for the preaching of the gospel. The subject of this reading is nothing less than the sum of Easter week—Christ’s passion and resurrection—and the anticipation of Pentecost in the commission of the gospel to all nations. Thus Christ’s resurrected body is the object of the church’s faith, not simply as a miracle wrought by God, but as the centerpiece of the proclamation of the new life in Christ. (*Stephen A. Cooper*)

- ✪ Jesus’ visit was meant to enlighten the disciples about his resurrection. How does this passage enlighten our understanding about the nature of Christ?
- ✪ How does this passage sum up Easter week? How does Christ’s resurrected body serve as the centerpiece of the gospel message?

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of his early followers. He brought change to their lives as they moved from (1) fright and alarm to (2) joy mixed with disbelief to (3) open and understanding minds and hearts. That marked shift in the core of their beings led them forth to take great risks, witnessing to the risen Christ. Jesus did not bring them security. Rather, they risked all in following his call. For they had come to understand that Jesus had conquered the ultimate threat, death itself, and their fears were groundless. The challenge to twenty-first-century Christians is great. Are we able to let go of our desire to be secure? (*Nancy R. Blakely*)

- ✪ Jesus shifted the core of the disciples’ lives. How does the risen Christ bring about significant change to the lives of people today? To your life?
- ✪ The disciples risked all to witness to Christ. What are the risks (if any) of proclaiming Christ in your world?
- ✪ What makes you feel secure? How would you feel if you gave up these things? What does this story teach us about faith in Christ and feeling secure?

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

God and Jesus are in cahoots against the powers of the world. Wherever there is inhumanity, exploitation, discrimination, and hopelessness, Jesus shows up offering comfort, assurance, and a bit of fussing. He invites us to be witnesses that are all about God—God’s intention to bring peace, unity, harmony, love, compassion, grace, justice, and mercy to a world that is broken and sinful. Jesus commissions us to declare the presence and power of God in the midst of tragedy, despair, and death. (*Barbara J. Essex*)

- ✪ If you had been in the room when Jesus appeared, how might you have reacted? Would you have easily moved from fear to bewilderment to excitement?
- ✪ How do your choices, attitudes, and words serve as a witness to the presence and power of God today?
- ✪ How do the choices and actions of our congregation witness to the presence and power of God today?

Thank God for God’s “peace, unity, harmony, love, compassion, grace, justice, and mercy.”