

Easter Series: The First Easter Service: Preparing the Witnesses of Christ

Luke 24:36-48



Luke 24:36-48 Now while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But being startled and frightened, they were thinking that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are

you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 And while they still were not believing because of their joy and were still marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, 43 and He took it and ate it before them. 44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

1) The Witness of Christ Has Proof That Jesus Lives to Remove Any Doubt. Jesus offers physical proof of His resurrection from the dead to remove His disciple's doubts. The foundation of the Christian witness

concerning the resurrection of Jesus is the fact that He appeared in the flesh to many people after His death. Jesus is recorded as appearing to hundreds of people over the course of 40 days following His crucifixion. The resurrection of Jesus was a public reality put on full display in the first century. There can be no doubt that Jesus lives because He removed all doubt by furnishing proof in the flesh that He is in fact alive.

2) The Witness of Christ Has Understanding That Jesus Lives to Remove Any Ignorance. Jesus points to the Scripture as the definitive source for knowing and believing His resurrection. Both Jesus, and later the Apostle Peter appeal to the veracity of Scripture as the "more sure word" that we have today, over and above any eye witness testimony, that Jesus is alive. An eye witness can be fooled to see something that is not really there. But, the word of God will remove any ignorance concerning the reality that Jesus lives. God's testimony in His Word is our ultimate source for understanding that Jesus is alive and what we must do concerning this truth. So long as the Word of God endures, the world cannot plead ignorance of the resurrection.

3) The Witness of Christ Has Clarity That Jesus Lives to Remove Any Uncertainty. Jesus clarifies His gospel and charges His disciples to be witnesses of His resurrection to the world. The good news of the resurrection of Jesus must be proclaimed to the lost. This is the charge Jesus gives to everyone of His disciples. So as to remove any uncertainty in our message, Jesus tells His disciples exactly what we are to proclaim to the world: the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. This is the Gospel, this is our testimony to the world, this is what every Christian is to bear as our witness: that Jesus died on the cross for our sin, that He was raised on the third day, and that whosoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness and eternal life in His name. Easter is both a season of celebration and preparation to tell the world that Jesus lives.