

RESURRECTION HOPE

Luke 24:36-49

INTRODUCTION: Hope is a word we often use to define “wishful thinking.” Just after the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples lacked hope because of fear, troubles and doubt. Luke gives evidence of their hopelessness in verse 37, saying they were “startled and frightened [by Jesus appearing among them], thinking they saw a ghost.” Jesus then asks them, “Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds?”

Today, the risen Christ shores up our hope...

I. JESUS OFFERS US _____

Luke 24:36 “...Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you!’”

Ephesians 2:14 “For he himself [Jesus] is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...” (NIV)

II. JESUS BRINGS _____

Luke 24:40,41 “...He [Jesus] showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them...”

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

III. JESUS CAUSES _____

Luke 24:45 “Then He [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

IV. JESUS BRINGS THE COURAGE TO BE A _____ IN A WORLD THAT LACKS TRUE HOPE

Luke 24:48 “You are witnesses of these things.”

CONCLUSION: How is your hope? Is your anchor holding firm?

Hebrews 6:19 “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...” (NIV)

GOING DEEPER

April 21/22, 2012

Luke 24: 36-49

OPEN

1. What tends to get you discouraged? Situations? Circumstances? People?
2. Do you think people in the USA are more encouraged or less encouraged for a positive future than 10 years ago?

DIG

1. In v. 37, what indications do we see that the disciples were discouraged concerning the events of the past week?
2. Jesus often greeted his followers with the words in v. 36, "Peace be with you." How is this greeting a good summary of all that God does for us?
3. The disciples of our Lord had heard the reports from the women about Jesus being alive after three days in the tomb. Why do you think the disciples were having such trouble believing that Jesus had truly risen from the dead?
4. What kinds of physical things did Jesus do (vs. 39-45) to demonstrate His physical resurrection from the dead?
5. What does God use today to "open" our minds (v.45) to the truth of His grace?
6. What task does Jesus give His followers in v.48? What accompanying promise does our Lord also give to those who are called to be His witnesses?

OPEN

1. Have you ever faced a time of severe discouragement? Who/what helped you the most?
2. The symbol of an anchor has been a symbol of true hope in Christ for centuries. (See Hebrews 6:19) Why do you think this symbol has been a comfort to so many Christians throughout the years?

3. As you consider Christ's call to be a witness for Him, who are some of the people to whom you are being sent? Is it easier for you to witness with your words, your actions, or both?
4. How do you respond to our Lord's call to share His grace?
 - ❖ ___ I couldn't possibly do that!
 - ❖ ___ Let's get going!
 - ❖ ___ He didn't mean me!
 - ❖ ___ I'm scared, but I'll trust Him.

CONCLUSION: Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 for comfort and encouragement!