

## Post-Resurrection Jealousy

*Sermon from April 14, 2024*

Luke 24: 36b-48

*St. Dunstan's, Houston, Texas*

*(Scroll down for Spanish text)*

*(Desplácese hacia abajo para ver el texto en español)*

The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Now, I have a confession to make to you, my friends.

I confess to you that, over the years, when I have read in the Bible about the risen Jesus - I have been jealous.

When I read about Jesus, after he has been raised from the dead, I have been jealous of his followers.

Because the disciples of Jesus - they get to see the risen Jesus.

The followers of Jesus - they get to see the nail marks in his hands and feet, and the sword mark in his side.

And in this morning's reading from the Gospel of

Luke, the disciples of Jesus are invited to touch and see.

Then the disciples of Jesus watch the risen Jesus eat a piece of broiled fish.

The risen Jesus is not a ghost.

Jesus walks and talks and eats and lives among us. Because Jesus is alive!

In our Gospel reading today, after Jesus eats a piece of broiled fish, he opens up the scriptures to his friends.

And then, in his final words, Jesus sums it all up by saying this:

“You are witnesses to these things.”

You see, if *I* had been there 2000 years ago, then my belief in the resurrection of Jesus would be a no-brainer.

Therefore, I can get jealous.

Jealous - of the invitation to touch and see.

Jealous - of the in-person and personal teaching sessions.

Jealous - of the fish fry with the Savior.

However, over the years, I have gotten over my jealousy of the disciples.

Because I realize that Jesus Christ is not just alive

and risen 2000 years ago.  
Jesus is alive and risen - today!

You see, I used to be jealous that the risen Jesus offered for his disciples to put their hands into his wounds, and to touch and see his hands and feet.

And yet *now* I realize - that I get to touch and see the wounds of the Body of Christ, each and every day.

In my life, I get to touch and see, by being with you!

With people, I have been in hospitals and emergency rooms and care facilities - where I have seen cuts and bruises and bullet wounds. I have witnessed the debilitating plagues of addiction and depression and mental illness. I have touched the wounded, in mind, body and spirit.

I do not need to see the wounds that remain on the body of the risen Jesus.

I do not need to put my hand in the side of Jesus, or to put my finger into his nail marks.

Instead, I have seen and touched *your* resurrected wounds.

And you are witnesses to these things.

I used to be jealous that, after his resurrection, Jesus broke bread with his disciples, and he ate a piece of broiled fish in their presence.

Yet *now* I realize - that I get to eat and drink with the Body of Christ all the time, especially on Sundays.

In my life, you can bet that I have eaten my share of potluck lunches, where everyone thinks that their deviled eggs are the best.

I have eaten with all sorts of people - at parish halls, and at my dining room table, and at this Table.

I have drank with people - at parties, and at pubs, and at receptions, where I have sipped my share of sweet tea.

And in all of those times of eating and drinking and feasting, when two or three of us are gathered together in the name of Jesus –

He is there.

I do not need to see the risen Jesus eat a piece of broiled fish to prove that he is alive and not a ghost.

I feast with the risen Jesus all the time.

And you are witnesses to these things.

I used to be jealous of those post-resurrection appearances of Jesus that we read about in the Bible.

Yet *now* I realize - that I see a post-resurrection appearance, when I am with his Body.  
And we call the Body of Christ: the Church.

The Church is the risen Body of Christ, on this earth.

And you all are a part of a specific church, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church.

And, as one of your bishops, I have seen and experienced a lot of different times here at St. Dunstan's.

Yet, I must say, that St. Dunstan's is currently experiencing - resurrection.

At St. Dunstan's, you have opened your eyes to the wounded Body of Christ, by ministering to the flesh of Jesus, in the bodies of the homeless and the needy.

You have opened the doors of this church to all people, *all people*, people of many different experiences and backgrounds and languages.

At St. Dunstan's, you are the living Body of Christ on this earth.

You all are the risen Jesus, walking and talking and serving his people.

And you are witnesses to these things.

You and I:

We do not need to be jealous of the first disciples of Jesus, who experienced those post-resurrection appearances.

We do not need to be jealous of the past.

Because Jesus Christ is alive and risen - today!

Jesus is alive - and we see and touch his wounded people.

Jesus is alive - and we eat and drink and feast with him.

Jesus is alive - at St. Dunstan's.

You are witnesses to these things.

AMEN.

**Celos Después de la Resurrección de Cristo**  
**Sermón del 14 de abril de 2024**  
**Lucas 24: 36b-48**  
**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas**

**El Rt. Reverendo Jeff W. Fisher**

¡Aleluya! Cristo ha resucitado.  
El Señor en verdad ha resucitado. ¡Aleluya!

Yo tengo una confesión que hacerles, amigos míos. Les confieso que, a lo largo de los años, cuando he leído en la Biblia acerca de Jesús resucitado -He estado celoso.

Cuando leí acerca de Jesús, después de haber resucitado de entre los muertos, tuve celos de sus seguidores. Porque los discípulos de Jesús pueden ver a Jesús resucitado. Los seguidores de Jesús pueden ver las marcas de los clavos en sus manos y pies, y la marca de la espada en su costado.

Y en todos esos momentos de comida, bebida y banquete, cuando dos o tres de nosotros estamos reunidos en el nombre de Jesús – El está aquí. No necesito ver a Jesús resucitado comer un trozo de pescado asado para demostrar que está vivo y no es un fantasma.

Festejo con Jesús resucitado todo el tiempo. Y ustedes son testigos de estas cosas.

Solía sentir celos de esas apariciones de Jesús después de la resurrección de las que leemos en la Biblia. Sin embargo, ahora me doy cuenta de que veo una aparición posterior a la resurrección, cuando estoy con su Cuerpo. Y al Cuerpo de Cristo lo llamamos: la Iglesia.

La Iglesia es el Cuerpo de Cristo resucitado, en esta tierra. Y todos ustedes son parte de una iglesia específica, la Iglesia Episcopal de St. Dunstan. Y, como uno de sus obispos, he visto y experimentado muchos momentos diferentes aquí en St. Dunstan.

Sin embargo, debo decir que St. Dunstan está experimentando actualmente una resurrección. En St. Dunstan, ustedes han abierto sus ojos al Cuerpo herido de Cristo, al ministrar al cuerpo de Jesús, en los cuerpos de los desamparados sin hogar y a los necesitados. Han abierto las puertas de esta iglesia a todas las personas, a todas las personas, personas de muchas experiencias, orígenes e idiomas diferentes.

En St. Dunstan, ustedes son el Cuerpo vivo de Cristo en esta tierra. Todos ustedes son Jesús resucitado, caminando, hablando y sirviendo a su pueblo.  
Y ustedes son testigos de estas cosas.

Ustedes y yo:

No necesitamos tener celos de los primeros discípulos de Jesús, quienes experimentaron esas apariciones posteriores a la resurrección. No necesitamos tener celos del pasado.  
Porque Jesucristo está vivo y resucitado - ¡hoy!

Jesús está vivo, y vemos y tocamos a su pueblo herido.  
Jesús está vivo, y comemos, bebemos y festejamos con él.  
Jesús está vivo - en St. Dunstan.

Y ustedes son testigos de estas cosas.

AMÉN.