

Luke 24: 36-53

(Side-note: Luke condenses Jesus appearing to his disciples and his ascension into one passage. One could read the text and assume that Jesus ascended to heaven on the same day he rose from the dead. This would be inaccurate. Luke's concern is not the amount of time Jesus spent on earth after his resurrection rather he is interested in the interaction between Jesus and his disciples. Taken along side the other gospels as well as Acts 1:1-11 which Luke also wrote we will understand that verses 50-53 happened sometime after 36-49)

1. The disciples continue to be troubled even though they have heard from several eye-witnesses confirming the resurrected Jesus. Now he appears in their presence and they are still plagued with unbelief. What do you think was their chief hang-up and can you relate to this kind of skepticism?
2. Jesus offers peace and assurance to his disciples including allowing them to touch his scars and watch him eat some fish. How does this demonstrate the patience of Jesus w/ our fears and doubts?
3. Jesus also offers a mild rebuke to his followers because they neither understood his teaching nor grasped the true message of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. Try to jot down 4-6 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah (there are hundreds from which to choose) and find their fulfillment in Luke's gospel. (this is the closest we've come to real homework around here in a while but it will be very good for you!)
4. Jesus calls his disciples witnesses. Why is that significant and does that title still apply to his present day disciples? If so what does witnessing look like in your life?
5. Read Acts 2 in order to gain a deeper understanding into Jesus promise of "power from on high."
6. The final act of the disciples that Luke records is their worship of Jesus. It is also the only time in his gospel where he points to people worshipping Jesus. What is the significance and what application can we draw from that today?

Tom