

## WITNESSES OF WHAT WAS WRITTEN

### Luke 24:45-53

Disciples are nervous; scared & upset.

Jesus has been taken from them.

Then they begin to hear stories about resurrection

As they talk, **Jesus appears**. This time to whole group.

**36-49 => He gives them a COMMISSION 36-49**

**Confirmation of the resurrection 36-44 36**

*"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them & said to them, "Peace be with you."*

**Scares them to death! 36-40 37** *"They were startled & frightened, thinking they saw a ghost."*

They think He's a **ghost! 38-39** *"He said to them, "Why are you troubled, & why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands & my feet. It is I myself! Touch me & see; a ghost doesn't have flesh & bones, as you see I have."*

**=> 40** *"he showed them his hands & feet."*

**41-44 => He explains what they're seeing.**

They can't believe it! **41-43** *"While they still did not believe it because of joy & amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>& he took it & ate it in their presence."*

He explains Scripture to show God's plan fulfilled **44**

*"This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets & the Psalms."*

**Having dealt with their doubts about the past,**

**Jesus presents His plan for the future:**

**Commission for future ministry 45-49**

**He enables them to understand Scriptures**

**45** *"He opens their minds so they can understand the Scriptures"*

**3 things were necessary: 46-47** *"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer & rise from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, <sup>47</sup>& repentance & forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jeru."*

**1. His suffering** Messiah had to die

**2. His resurrection** Messiah had to be raised

**3. Preaching of repentance** ="change of mind"

**"Concerning His name"**—Concerning Who He is

**"A concerning-His-name change of mind"**

Changing our mind about Jesus leads to

=> forgiveness of sins

That message will be preached to **all** nations

Israel never understood that forgiveness in the name of Messiah is for pagans too!

God intended Israel to be light to nations in darkness.

They failed=> Mission passed to church.

## **Why has He left us here?**

Why doesn't God take us home when we trust Christ?

=>#3 We proclaim a change of mind => forgiveness

Telling people about Jesus

**48-49** *"You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I'm going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you've been clothed with power from on high."*

**Promise–"you [will be] witnesses" <= H.S. Acts 1:8**

**Command–"wait in Jerusalem"**

**Provision–God's power**

God promises to supply power–H.S.

*Wait* for God to provide power.

Exactly what we never want to do! WAIT!??

"Let me provide power. Let me give the opportunity."

=> **Results–you [will be] witnesses**

Promise fulfilled by coming of H.S. 10 days later

We're *witnesses* to point way to Jesus–tell people what we've experienced; how they can be forgiven

Begin praying **God will lay 2 people on your heart**

that He'll open door for you to share Christ with them,

**Paul Cedar:** Spoke at lunch. Invited people to trust Christ.

Young woman responded–beside herself with joy. Said strange thing, "This is most wonderful thing that's ever happened to me, but I don't know why I came."

"Did you come with a friend?" "Oh no. I avoid Christ-ians." "How did you get here?" "That's what I don't under-stand. I saw ad, called #, made reservation, & drove up. Ol heard gospel, trusted Christ, but I don't know why I came!"

Paul smiled, "I guess someone's been praying for you." "Oh, no. I don't *know* any Christians. No one would pray for me." Week later, his phone rang. Hysterical woman on phone. He figured out it was this young lady.

"I gotta tell you what happened this a.m. Doorbell rang. It was woman I've never seen before–holding a cake. "Hello, I'm your neighbor across the alley. I saw you move in & I've been wanting to bake a cake & welcome you.

She invited her guest in; made coffee. They cut the cake & sat down. New Christian had 1<sup>st</sup> love for Jesus. "She didn't know any better."

Spontaneous. No training. She began to tell her guest how she came to know Christ. Her new friend began to cry. She stopped. "I'm sorry, if I've offended you.""Oh, no. You haven't offended me. This is wonderful!

"I was washing dishes, when the moving van arrived.

God laid you on my heart. I've been praying for you every day, waiting for courage to come meet you. Finally God gave me courage. You've already trusted Christ."

When friend left, God brought her mother-in-law to mind. They hadn't talked in months. They despised each other. "This is what my mother-in-law needs. I'm going to call her"

Her mother-in-law answered, "before you say anything, I want to ask you to forgive me for how I've treated you. She told how she came to Christ a few months before. She'd been praying for her son & daughter-in-law. She promised God that 1<sup>st</sup> she'd ask forgiveness; 2<sup>nd</sup> she'd tell them about Jesus."

**Common people, used by H.S.**

***God can use us to reach people around us too.***

Following commission to preach the gospel to all nations, the disciples witness Jesus' ascension into heaven.

**Ascension 50-53** *"When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands & blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them & was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him & returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>& they stayed continually at the temple, praising God."*

**He blesses them 50**

**He's taken up into heaven 51**

**They worship God 52-53**

His ascension causes them to worship & praise God.

**We are witnesses of these things.**

*Are we telling what we've seen to people around us?*

Satan tricks us to keep us from sharing our faith

"We won't know what to say; how to answer questions"

Maybe we'll blow it. Maybe they'll laugh or reject us.

**Witnessing: telling someone what God's done for us.**

*"One beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."*

We don't have to know all the answers!

H.S. prepares the heart; that's all it takes.

If the Spirit of God hasn't prepared the heart,

all the arguments in the world won't move a person.

Pray God opens doors for us to share what He's done.

Speak as H.S. moves us. => He handles results!

**Pray for 2!**