

REDISCOVER JESUS, PART 88: "JESUS PROVES HIS RESURRECTION"

LUKE 24:36-49

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Personal Introduction

Hi everyone. If you don't know me, I'm Jeff - one of the pastors at HMCC of Jakarta. And it's my privilege to be preaching the Word of God for us today.

Sermon Series Introduction

We're currently in Part 88 of our sermon series called "Rediscover Jesus," where we're going through the Gospel of Luke together. And we're almost at the end now.

Before we get started, let me pray for us again...

Sermon Introduction

Let's start by taking a poll. How many of you like dimsum? Please raise your hands.

Please keep your hands in the air if you like dimsum, but... you do not like chicken feet.

Please keep your hands in the air if you like dimsum, and you do not like chicken feet, but... you've never actually tried chicken feet.

I was one of those people who did not like chicken feet before even trying it. Because just the thought and the sight of chicken feet does not look very good. Honestly, it's hard to believe that it should even be eaten.

After moving to Indonesia, I was at a dimsum place with a few friends, and someone ordered chicken feet. And they're trying to convince me that it's actually pretty good. But of course I had my doubts. Why? Because it's chicken feet!

Though I was doubtful. I still tried it. And you know what? It's not that bad... Actually it's such a unique texture that you rarely get it with any other kinds of food. And the flavor (depending on the sauce) was pretty good! And it was like an experience because it looks a bit odd, and you have to take out the tiny bones. But overall, it's kinda enjoyable. And now, I'm the one asking my family and friends to try chicken feet!

Perhaps you've also had a similar experience where you went from being doubtful about something... to being assured about it... to now being the ones to share it with others! Maybe you've experienced this with another kind of food, or with another activity, or something else. But at first, you're doubtful because it was difficult to believe...

Similarly, Jesus' resurrection was also hard to believe. Even Jesus' disciples were doubtful. Today, we'll see Jesus proving his resurrection to his disciples. And once they're convinced, they're now to proclaim it and share it with others so that others may also believe...

The One Thing

***Jesus proves his resurrection to his disciples
and sends them to proclaim it to all nations.***

Scripture Introduction

If you have your Bibles with you, please turn to Luke 24:36-49.

For us, it's been 2 weeks since Easter Sunday. But for context, our passage today still takes place on Easter Sunday - actually, the first Easter Sunday - because it's Jesus' resurrection day. So let's keep that in mind...

- Now, we know from previous passages that early Sunday morning, the women (who had followed Jesus from Galilee) found that Jesus' tomb was empty. His body was nowhere to be found! And 2 angels appeared before them, and told them that Jesus has risen from the dead! And they told other disciples, but they didn't really believe them and thought that it was only an idle tale.
- Then later on that same day, Jesus appeared to 2 more disciples as they're walking from Jerusalem to a nearby village. And at first they didn't realize it was Jesus, but then when they finally realized it was actually the risen Christ, they returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of who they've just seen!

So that's where we are in today's passage... It's now the evening of Easter Sunday - So imagine a room filled with Jesus' disciples as they're talking about how Jesus has risen from the dead! And there's excitement and buzz in the air... but notice what happens next, and notice how the atmosphere in the room changes...

Scripture Reading

Let's read Luke 24:36-49 (ESV)

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw 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 disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything 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 said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

This is God's Word.

Overview

Why did the risen Christ appear to his disciples?

- I. To assure his disciples (vv. 36-43)
- II. To teach his disciples (vv. 44-47)
- III. To send his disciples (vv. 47-49)

I. To assure his disciples (vv. 36-43)

Again, imagine the scene - let's imagine that we're in the same room as Jesus' disciples back then that Easter Sunday.

We know from the Gospel of John that the door to the room was actually locked. Due to fear of the Jews, the disciples were in hiding and they locked themselves in (being very careful of who goes in and out).

So imagine that you're in this locked room that's reserved only for Jesus' disciples.

If you try to get a sense of the atmosphere in the room... It's one of excitement! There's a buzz in the air... there's possibly a lot of mini-conversations taking place between Jesus' disciples at this time. You're hearing that multiple disciples have seen Jesus - that he's risen from the dead! Wow! Some disciples even talked to him!

<pause>

Look at verse 36 - As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "peace to you!"

So the disciples hear a familiar voice in the room... "peace to you." Who could've said that? And who do they see? It's Jesus! They're just talking about him and here he is in front of them!

But instead of being even more excited... the disciples were startled and frightened! Imagine the buzz in the air taken over by utter shock and silence... as they're all just staring at Jesus...

They thought they're seeing a spirit (or a ghost). They're not sure what they're seeing...

And Jesus knows what's on their minds - all the questions and doubts... And he kindly assures them.

Look at verse 38 - Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. We know from the Gospel of John that you could see the marks of the nails that had pierced Jesus' hands (when he was crucified).

What does this mean? This is Jesus! The same Jesus who was crucified. The same physical body whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross. This is the same Jesus in the flesh! He's not just a spirit! He's there physically in front of them!

But look at verse 41 - They still disbelieved for joy and were marveling! What the disciples were seeing still hasn't fully registered in their minds... they were still in a state of disbelief - they're thinking, "this is too good to be true! It can't be real!"

They still couldn't believe that Jesus was standing there in front of them...

<pause>

For many people today, Jesus' resurrection is still a topic of great debate. For those who continue to doubt that Jesus has truly resurrected in the flesh, they argue that:

- Maybe Jesus didn't die in the first place, so what the disciples are seeing is not the resurrected Jesus - it was just Jesus who somehow survived.
- Or... maybe the disciples hallucinated or were just seeing things - they only thought they saw Jesus when it was actually all just in their minds.
- Or... maybe the disciples lied; they somehow colluded together, and made it all up.

Now, these would be legitimate concerns! So let's take a closer look at some of these claims...

- Now, imagine if Jesus didn't actually die, and then he appeared to his disciples basically half-dead. And his body is all beaten, bloody, and bruised. Who would be convinced that Jesus really resurrected from the dead?
- Now, imagine if the apostles, and the other disciples all hallucinated... it's very very unlikely for them to somehow hallucinate the same thing at the same time; having a mass hallucination.
- And imagine if the disciples made it all up... but then why would they make up a story that would show other people of their doubt and uncertainty regarding Jesus' resurrection? That would not be a good thing for them.
 - And if they made it up, then why would they all be so convinced of Jesus' resurrection? That they would be willing to be persecuted for it? To suffer, to be tortured, and to be killed in the name of Jesus as if it was all true?

Well, Jesus' disciples knew that what they witnessed would be questioned. That's why they wrote it all down as a record of what happened. Including this Gospel account we've been studying, which was written by one of Jesus' disciples named Luke. In Luke 1, Luke said that the purpose of why he's writing an orderly account of what happened is so that his reader may have certainty about the things that they've been taught.

The question now is whether we believe its content or not.

<pause>

Let's be wary that because we're sinners, our natural tendency is to not believe what's written in God's Word - not only regarding his resurrection, but perhaps there are other things in Scripture that we've been struggling to believe or currently doubting.

Because, as sinners, our tendency is not to rely on God's Word, but to rely on our own understanding - thinking that *what* we think and *how* we think is right.

- Which means that when we come across something in God's Word that doesn't fit into our understanding - that we can't fully understand - then we tend to dismiss it as untrue.

I'll be the first to admit this. For years, I doubted Jesus' resurrection.

- Even though I grew up going to Sunday School, and I was familiar with some of the Bible stories growing up. But when I went to college, and pursued to study the sciences... I stopped believing in God.
- And the more I studied the sciences and the world around me, and discovered how it works, the more I thought that I knew more than God.
- And God no longer fits the way I think. Jesus' resurrection seems to go against the laws of biology and physics (as I know it), and I questioned Jesus. And I stopped going to church.

Kids and teens - you may be studying science right now or in the near future - and perhaps studying other things that may make you question God or Jesus' resurrection. Let me just share this with you - as someone who's studied both the sciences and the Bible.

- Science is cool - it shows us how amazing God is and how beautiful the world that God created is. But science is man trying to explain how God's World works. And human understanding is very limited.
- While on the other hand, the Bible is God Himself telling us directly about Him and His world that He's created. And God is all-powerful and all-knowing.
- So if there's any differences between what you think and what the Bible says, don't just ignore what the Bible says because it no longer fits your understanding and how you think the world works. Rather try to address your doubt by going to God's Word instead of just ignoring it.
 - And I encourage you to talk to your parents or talk to one of the pastors before dismissing anything that the Bible says. We'd love to help you make sense of what you're reading.

Because what I've come to realize is that God is beyond our human understanding. What I did wrong back then was that I tried to fit God into this box; into the limits of science, into the limits of my mind... when it should've been the opposite! I should be seeing the world based on who God is (not the other way around)!

- Perhaps some of you have also made that mistake...
- Because who even created the world and the universe in the first place? God! And God, the creator, is greater than the world that He created, and God is also not limited by the laws of physics that He created.

So in the end, this was my thinking and how I made sense of it:

- If there is truly a God, could that almighty, all-powerful God do anything? Yes (if not, then he's not almighty).
 - So can He even become flesh? Yes. And Jesus is the Word of God made flesh - fully God and fully Man.
- And if he's fully-God, then can he resurrect from the dead? Yes, He could.
- So logically, that makes sense to me.

But please know that this journey of discovering who Jesus - who God - truly is, wasn't easy and straightforward for me.

So for those who have not yet placed your faith in Christ, please don't be discouraged if you still have questions or doubts.

And if we look at our passage today, it wasn't easy for Jesus' disciples back then to believe in Jesus' physical resurrection either! So I encourage you to not give up, but keep reading, and keep listening...

<pause>

Look at verse 41 - Jesus knew that his disciples were still in a state of disbelief (even as he's standing there before them). So he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" And they gave him broiled fish. And he took it. And Jesus ate it in front of them.

- Now they may be questioning whether Jesus was real, but they can't question if the fish was real! They must've been the ones to catch or buy that fish, they're the ones to broil the fish, perhaps they've eaten some of the broiled fish before! They know it's real!
- And here... they see Jesus physically eating their broiled fish in front of them...
- There's no denying it now. This is the same Jesus in the flesh!
 - Now, they may be thinking, "I hear his voice, I can touch him (and the marks on his hands), he's interacting with the physical world (he ate the fish we prepared). This is the risen Jesus! [the same Jesus who's been with us, teaching us, for the past 3 years (v.44)]. And he's risen in the flesh; not only spiritually, but physically! There's no denying it now!"

<pause>

Jesus - the risen Christ - appeared to his disciples and took time to assure them that he was there with them in person. He proved to them that his body is resurrected physically.

Key question: why is it so important for us, as Jesus' disciples, to be assured of his physical resurrection? That it wasn't just his spirit?

- **Because Jesus' bodily resurrection sets the foundation of our faith as Christians!**
- If Jesus did not truly resurrect physically from the dead, then there's no reason for us to believe in him and what he's saying and what he teaches!
- But because Jesus truly resurrected, that proves that he's legit, he is who he says he is, and that means we should take what he says and teaches seriously.
 - And next, we'll take a look at what Jesus teaches his disciples...

Why did the risen Christ appear to his disciples?

II. To teach his disciples (vv. 44-47)

After Jesus assures his disciples that he has truly risen; that his body has physically resurrected... Jesus then points them to Scripture... to God's Word...

Look at verse 44 - He said, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

So at that time, Scripture (the Word of God) was divided into 3 parts: the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms (or the writings). Remember, that during that time, the New Testament hasn't been written yet, so those three divisions make up what we now know as the Old Testament.

Now, let's look at verse 45 - Jesus then opened his disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures. And Jesus said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead"

So Jesus opened his disciples' minds to understand that his resurrection has not only happened... but has been part of God's plan all along since the beginning of time!

- And it's even been foretold by multiple prophets, and recorded in Scripture written hundreds to thousands of years before Jesus was even born.

So notice how Jesus is very intentional with his disciples here as he appears to them... he first assured them when they initially doubted his resurrection. And now that they're already assured, he helps them grow in their confidence in him.

- How does he do that? By going to God's Word; By teaching them Scripture (the same Old Testament Bible that we have today), and he opened their minds to understand Scripture - and how God's Word has been leading to his death and resurrection...

Now, we can guess at some passages that Jesus might've taught his disciples...

- Maybe Jesus started with the book of Genesis - and reminded the disciples how Adam and Eve fell into sin, and how all humanity has been in sin ever since.

- This would've been a great reminder that all of us have fallen short of God's glorious standard of righteousness, and what we deserve for sinning against an eternal God is eternal punishment in Hell.
- Then perhaps Jesus went to the book of Leviticus, and revealed to them how the daily sacrifices that the Israelites made (and the entire sacrificial system as a whole) pointed to the people's need of a sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins, and pointed to how Jesus himself would be the ultimate and once-for-all sacrifice for sinners.
 - Imagine the disciples' eyes lighting up, as this is revealed to them...
- Then perhaps Jesus went to the book of the Prophet Isaiah, and revealed to them how Isaiah prophesied how the Christ - the Messiah; the promised Savior - would die in place of sinners.
 - Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)
 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 and with his wounds we are healed.
- Then perhaps Jesus went to Psalms 22 and revealed to them how it prophesied his crucifixion at the cross, even to the detail of the soldiers gambling over his clothing!
 - Psalms 22:16b-18 (ESV)
 a company of evildoers encircles me;
 they have pierced my hands and feet—
 I can count all my bones—
 they stare and gloat over me;
 they divide my garments among them,
 and for my clothing they cast lots.
- And then maybe he referred to Psalm 16 - And how it prophesies Christ's resurrection, and how he'll not remain dead.
 - Psalm 16:10 (NIV)
 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
 nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

Imagine the disciples being in awe of what's being revealed to them as they're able to connect the dots in their minds, as they now have greater understanding of Scripture - and of Jesus, and how it all points to Jesus! How the Bible is one unified story centered on Christ!

How can the disciples continue to doubt? Jesus has proven with Scripture that his death and resurrection not only happened, but is part of God's divine plan (since long ago) in order to redeem and save His people from the grip of sin and death.

<pause>

Why is this important for us?

- Take a peek at verse 47 - This is so important for us because Jesus' death and resurrection made it possible for our sins to be forgiven.

And the fulfillment of Scripture also proves that God is faithful... God made a promise in the past with His people (back in the Old Testament) that he would save them. And those promises are kept and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

So how should this impact our confidence in God?

- Well, just as God has kept His promises from long ago, that should also give us greater confidence that He will continue to fulfill His promises that are still yet to come.

Because Jesus' physical resurrection also gives a glimpse into our future; into our physical resurrection that's still to come.

- Because those who put our faith in Christ are not only united in his death, but we're also united in his resurrection (and one day, our bodies will also be resurrected and we'll be given new, glorified bodies that will not decay but will be eternal like Jesus' body) (Phil. 3:21).
 - So this means that eternal life in Heaven is not gonna be like spirits floating in the clouds.
 - But God's Word says that there will be a new, physical creation: New Heaven & New Earth. And we'll physically be with one another and will be face-to-face with Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And the amazing thing is that that's been a part of God's plan since long ago!

<pause>

So as those of us who've already put our faith in Christ, do we live in confidence in his resurrection?

- Do we live as if Jesus is truly resurrected and that we'll one day also be resurrected and will have eternal life?
- Or do we live as if Christ remained dead and that we'll also remain dead and so... do we instead live as if this life is all there is to it?

Take a look back at how you've lived these past couple of weeks. What does it reveal about where your hope is in?

- Is it placed in this life? In your current relationships, possessions, career, and life goals?
- Or is your hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? And the life that's still to come?

<pause>

Maybe some of us here do have the genuine desire to place our hope in Christ. But maybe there's also another desire that we have to place our hope in other things. And so we feel stuck... and sinfully, we keep going back to the things of this world.

How can we turn away from the things of the world and fix our eyes on what's eternal?

Well, again, what did Jesus do to increase his disciples' confidence in him, and to point them to God's grand plan? He taught them Scripture!

- We can do the same, and we can go to God's Word again and again to remind us of the life we have in Jesus, and how life is more than what we see now.

<pause>

So let's pray for a greater desire and a deep hunger to be in God's Word...

And as we go to God's Word, I'd like to encourage us to do 2 things:

- (1) Pray for understanding
 - Just as it's Jesus who opened his disciple's minds, we're also to rely on God to open our minds to understand Scripture, not relying on our own understanding.
 - Pray that God may reveal Himself to us and give us understanding - even to verses that we've read over and over already throughout our lives.
- (2) Look for Jesus
 - When reading Scripture, ask 2 questions:
 - *"What do these verses reveal about me?"*
 - About my sinful tendencies and my need for Jesus?
 - *"What do these verses reveal about God?"*
 - About Jesus? About who he is and his work, and his Gospel, and what he's accomplished?

Parents - read the Bible as a family. This is one of the most loving things that you can do for your family. Fathers, you're to lead in this as God has given you the main responsibility to lead your family spiritually. If you're unsure how to go about it, that's ok. Please talk to other fathers who may be trying to figure out the same things, or talk to one of the pastors. And we'd love to help.

Kids and teens - as you're reading the Bible, ask your parents, "What does this passage have to do with Jesus?"

- How do these stories that seem unrelated... how do they all connect as one unified story that centers on Christ?

These questions will help you understand the meaning of Scripture as Jesus revealed to his first disciples - that it's all about him. And thus, we can be confident in our hope in him and his resurrection.

So first, Jesus - the risen Christ - appeared to his disciples and took time to assure them that he was there with them in person. He proved to them that his body is resurrected physically. Second, he taught them Scripture and revealed how his death and resurrection fulfills Scripture - and thus, he helped his disciples gain more confidence in his resurrection. Lastly...

Why did the risen Christ appear to his disciples?

III. To send his disciples (vv. 47-49)

Look at verse 47 - It's a continuation of what Jesus was saying before. He says, "Thus it is written... that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

So not only is it part of God's plan to redeem His people through Christ's death and resurrection, but it's also part of God's plan for this Good News to be shared to people of all nations.

Jesus is telling his disciples that this has also been written in Scripture since long ago.

- Again, maybe Jesus went to the book of Genesis (which is part of the Law of Moses) - and maybe he reminded his disciples of the promise that God made with Abraham.
 - Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)
And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 - This promise was fulfilled through Jesus Christ, who descended from Abraham's lineage.
- Then maybe Jesus went to the book of the Prophet Isaiah, and reminded his disciples of what's written...
 - Isaiah 49:6b (ESV)
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
- Then maybe Jesus went to Psalm 22...
 - Psalms 22:27 (ESV)
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

From the Law of Moses to the Prophets to the Psalms, it's been written that this Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ is to be proclaimed and shared to all nations! That forgiveness of sins is possible for anyone who repents!

Notice what Jesus says next to his disciples in that locked room...

Look at verse 48 - "You are witnesses of these things."

- A "witness" is someone who has personally seen or experienced an event.
- Jesus' disciples are witnesses of "these things" - witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection. And now, they're those who've been assured of Jesus' physical resurrection, and they've been taught to understand what's written in Scripture directly from Jesus himself.
- They're not to be passive witnesses; they're to be active witnesses - they're to do something with what they've seen, heard, touched, and experienced.
 - They're to share it with others! They're to proclaim it to ALL nations - not just to nearby neighbors but to ALL nations of the Earth!

Again, Jesus is being very intentional here in his interaction with his disciples: when they're doubtful of his resurrection... he first assured them. Then he taught them Scripture to help them grow in confidence in his resurrection. And now that they're assured and confident, they're sent out to share what they've witnessed!

And this is the same for us!

<pause>

For those of us who have received Christ as our Lord and Savior, you're also witnesses to these things. And as you've been assured and growing in confidence, you're also to share it with others!

- Because as witnesses, you've personally experienced conversion. You have a story to share (and your story is part of God's story).

And the reason why you're a Christian is because of others who have shared the Gospel with you. And they themselves became Christians because others shared the Gospel with them, and so on... How you became a Christian can be traced back to the disciples in that room in Jerusalem.

You are part of a network of witnesses that started in Jerusalem, and have since spread to other nations, including the people groups of Indonesia.

And as witnesses, the Gospel is not supposed to end with you because, here, Jesus has commissioned his disciples to keep proclaiming it to others!

And why should we proclaim it to others? Well if we truly believe and are confident that Jesus has resurrected and is the only way, the truth, and the life - and that others are heading towards Hell if they do not repent of their sins and place their faith in Christ - then why wouldn't we want to share the Gospel to as many people as possible?

- We can start sharing with those whom God has already placed close to us - including our Non-Christian family members, friends, and co-workers.
- And we're all actually witnesses to somebody - we all have somebody. People are looking and observing us. We either ignore that fact... or we can take that on as a privilege to reveal Christ to others with our words and actions.

But why is our tendency to not share the Gospel?

- Well, there are many reasons that may make us hesitant in sharing, but maybe one reason is because we doubt that our evangelism efforts would do any good, we think that it's not gonna make much difference anyways... we doubt whether our family and friends would ever be converted from our evangelism...

<pause>

At this point, I just want to make it clear to us the difference between evangelism and conversion. Because they can get mixed up, and mixing these 2 things up can discourage us from evangelizing.

- Evangelism is sharing the Gospel to others. And that's simply it. Sharing the Gospel to others... that's evangelism.
- Now, Conversion is different. Conversion is when someone becomes Christian; when someone receives the Gospel as Truth, and they choose to repent of their sins and put their faith in Christ.
- The key difference between evangelism and conversion is: you can evangelize to someone, but you cannot convert someone. Only God can work in their hearts (opening their minds to understand Scripture and the Gospel - just as Jesus opened his disciples' minds to understand). So you cannot convert, but you can evangelize; you can share the Gospel.

And this should actually be so encouraging for us!

- Because this makes evangelism so much more doable!
 - You don't need to convert, you just need to share.
 - Allow me to go back to my chicken feet story. I just need to share chicken feet with someone. I can't force them to like it; that's outside of my scope.
- Similarly, we're to just share the Gospel...
 - And we can be encouraged that God will be the one working in others' hearts.

But oftentimes, we forget that. And so we carry that burden ourselves as if we're the ones who need to convert our family members and friends. That's a heavy burden; that burden is not ours to carry (and that can discourage us from evangelizing).

- Conversion is God's job. Our job is to share the gospel - that's it.
- But what we can do is to pray for conversion - that God will be working in their hearts - opening their minds to understand Scripture and the Gospel.

Let's focus on doing our part in sharing the Gospel!

- And you'd want to share all parts of the Gospel:
 - The bad news: that we're sinners before a holy God and that our deserved punishment is eternity in Hell.
 - The Good News: that Jesus Christ died as our substitute so our sins may be forgiven.
 - The response needed: that only those who believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior will not perish in Hell, but have eternal life.
 - You'd want to share the bad news, the Good News, and the response that's needed.

If you're interested to read more about these topics, I recommend reading:

Show images:

- "Evangelism" by J. Mack Stiles
 - (Which is available in our digital library through our website)
- "Stay Salt" by Rebecca Pippert
 - Which has helpful tips on how to evangelize. Practically, how you can intentionally guide the flow of conversation from the surface level to a deeper level to having a spiritual conversation, and sharing the Gospel with others.

Now, I understand that evangelism may sound a bit intimidating, especially for those who have not yet shared the Gospel to anyone yet. But know that you don't have to do this alone, and you don't have to do it by your own strength and capabilities.

<pause>

Look at verse 49 - Jesus tells his disciples, "behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

The promise Jesus is referring to here is the Holy Spirit - who will clothe us with power from on high; who will empower and embolden us to share the Gospel passionately and powerfully.

Here we see the Holy Trinity in one verse - God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Spirit. Here, we're reminded that God is 3 persons in 1 being.

- And God the Father (our Heavenly Father) will not only be watching over us, and God the Son (Jesus) will not only be sending us to proclaim the Gospel on our own, but God the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) will be in us empowering us to share boldly.

And we know from Scripture that the Holy Spirit lives in us - in those who believe in Christ.

- The Spirit convicts our hearts to repent of our sins, the Spirit opens our minds to understand Scripture, and the Spirit empowers and emboldens us to share the Gospel powerfully!
- And as we're sharing the Gospel with others, we can pray that He'll also be at work in the hearts and minds of those listening to us; that the Spirit may also be working in their minds to understand Scripture, softening their hearts and helping them to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

So the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples is not meant to be done by our own efforts, but we're to rely solely on God's provision of strength through the Spirit.

And this all happened as Jesus promised... At Pentecost (50 days after Passover - so about 50 days after Jesus' crucifixion), the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit! (you can read about it in the book of Acts)

- And Simon Peter - empowered by the Spirit - spoke to the crowd in Jerusalem powerfully. And thousands were converted and placed their faith in Christ. And these first Christians formed the first church in Jerusalem that would then spread throughout Judea and Samaria and the ends of the world (till today... where the Gospel has also reached Indonesia).

What we can also see here is that we're not merely to be witnesses on our own. But we're also to be a witness together - corporately as a church. Notice how Jesus spoke to a group of his disciples (not just to one disciple). Something powerful happens when a group of Christians live out the Gospel together. We become faithful and powerful witnesses of Christ's resurrection to the watching world. And we become further proof and evidence that Jesus' resurrection truly happened, and that the Gospel message is true.

So if Non-Christians see how we live our lives as a church...

- Will they see a group of people whose lives are no different than Non-Christians - living as if this life is all there is to it?
 - Which may confuse them about what it means to be Christian and points them away from Christ.
- Or will they see a group of people whose confidence is in Christ's resurrection and the eternal life to come?
 - Which confuses them in a good way because they see that there's something different about this group of people. And they're pointed to Jesus.

Let's pray that we can be faithful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by living out our faith confidently. And let's pray for boldness to share the Gospel with others. And let's pray that the Gospel will spread to more and more nations; to more and more people groups (that God would raise more missionaries and Gospel workers - possibly even some from our church) so that more and more workers may proclaim his resurrection to all nations.

Again, as those of us who've been assured of Jesus' resurrection, and have grown in confidence as we continue to read Scripture, let's be intentional in sharing the Good News to others around us...

The One Thing

***Jesus proves his resurrection to his disciples
and sends them to proclaim it to all nations.***

Let's pray.