

“Why Are You Troubled?” Luke 24:36–49

“Why are you troubled?” Jesus asks a fair question. Why indeed? Two disciples going to Emmaus had saw Jesus earlier and had rushed to tell the others, who shared that Jesus had appeared also to Simon Peter. They are talking about all this when suddenly Jesus shows up. Yet in spite of the eyewitness accounts, they react with fear and doubt. They think they are seeing a ghost. “Why are you troubled” is a fair question.

Have you ever received news so good that you were almost afraid to believe it? Our first reaction to bad news is often denial. We can't wrap our brain around the tragedy right away. Neither can we easily accept news that seems too good to be true.

So we reason why it can't be true in order to avoid later disappointment. The disciples reasoned in their mind that Jesus was a ghost.

As Jesus asked his disciples, I ask you, “why are you troubled?” Why the doubts? Why do you sometimes think the Gospel is too good to be true for you?

Jesus did three things to convince them why his resurrection was not too good to be true. First he let

them touch him to see that He was no ghost. Then he eats some fish.

As I mentioned last week it was vital to know Christ rose bodily. For that reason, our sins are no longer counted against us. God accepted His sacrifice. Luther comments on the importance of his glorified body. His coming through locked doors is shows that he *wants to be known and believed as ruling by his power everywhere present, having the will to be with us and help us in all places and at all times, when and where we need it, unfettered and unhindered by the world and all its might*". Why ever be troubled then?

Thus he assured them what he had told them was true. Their testimony assures us that it's not too good to be true. So never-mind the skeptics. Since their brains are no bigger than yours, why are they authorities on this? They still haven't explained why His tomb was found empty.

Secondly, after Jesus opened their eyes by his physical appearance, He opened their eyes to the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms, which prophesied everything that just happened. If something hard to believe has been

predicted, it's not so hard to believe. Plus the word of God has power to create faith in what it says. So Jesus uses it for their troubled spirits.

So when you are troubled by evil or by doubt that God's grace is too good to be true, open your eyes to the Scriptures. They are more truthful than your own conscience. They are more comforting than even your kindest friend, for they are God's very own words.

For the third thing Jesus did, He wanted his disciples to have no doubts about his resurrection or the truthfulness of Scripture. He then commissioned them to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name. The mission started in Jerusalem, where they received the power of the Spirit not only to cast off all their troubling doubts, but also so that their testimony would bear the fruit of many repenting their sins and forgiveness for them.

Faith Lutheran Church carries that mission forward, as your constitution declares. *The purpose of Faith Lutheran Church shall be to give honor and glory to the Triune God, to carry out his will, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, to manifest the*

*unity of our faith in Jesus Christ, to foster Christian fellowship and love, to extend a helping hand to human need, and to achieve its objectives by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the sacraments, and by the religious instruction of all its members according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In less formal terms we now say we are "Drawing everyday people to faithfully follow God's Word."*

As you face a pivotal time of change in the history of this church, do not be troubled by the transitions ahead. Jesus is as alive and among you as He was with the disciples. He still speaks His Word from the pulpit, gives graces from the altar, and abides with love in the hearts of His baptized people. Your mission remains until He returns: To be faithful in proclaiming repentance and forgiveness in His name. Nothing has changed.

Remember always to be repenting people first. Then let His promise apply the very forgiveness of sins that you proclaim. Such forgiveness is not too good to be true. Jesus died and rose to give it,

the Scriptures testify of it, and the world is waiting to hear it. Do not be troubled. Believe, be bold, and be busy. Amen