

***Growing as Disciples and Stewards  
Living In and Living Out God's Grace  
September 2019: Invite***

**Date to post: September 3**

**Date of Luke 24:36-53 featured in Worship: September 15**

**Introductory Comments**

"Pray" (July) and "Study" (August) now expressed in "Invite"

Invite = to welcome, invite to x, share

Expressed in Luke as proclaim and witness

A calling for all disciples and communities of faith

Note pattern in all 3 scenes of Luke 24: fear/transformation through Word/telling

Luke 24:1-12: The empty tomb

Terrified

Transformed by Word

Remember how he told you/They remembered his words

Told

Luke 24:13-35: The Emmaus Road

Sad, foolish, slow of heart

Transformed by Word

Interpreted the scriptures: burning hearts

Broke bread: eyes opened

Told

Luke 24:36-53: Jerusalem

Terrified, doubts, disbelieving

Transformed by the Word

Opened their minds to understand the scriptures

Christ must suffer

Christ must rise

Christ must be proclaimed

Content: repentance, forgiveness of sins

Authority: in his name

Extent: to all nations

Power: Holy Spirit

Worship/Joy/Blessing/Stay!

Note the "unfinished" Gospel: will continue in Acts (Luke's volume 2):

Witness

Empowered by Holy Spirit

To all nations

Still "unfinished" at end of Acts

Drama of fear/transformation/proclamation continues to us!

Luke-Acts provides powerful paradigm of discipleship and mission of the church

Expressed in LCGS Mission/Vision

Community of Christ

Experiencing God

Reaching out

Nurturing faith

Liturgy center: Word, Baptism, Communion

Locally and to the ends of the earth

Transforming power of Word, Holy Spirit for all

## Growing as Disciples: Invite

### Luke 24:36-43: Fear, Understanding and Proclaiming the Word

**Luke 24:36** While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>37</sup> They were **startled** and **terrified**, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.<sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you **frightened**, and why do **doubts** arise in your hearts?"<sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were **disbelieving** and still **wondering**, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled**."<sup>45</sup> Then he **opened** their **minds to understand** the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the **Messiah** is to **suffer** and to **rise** from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that **repentance and forgiveness of sins** is to be **proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from **Jerusalem**."<sup>48</sup> You are **witnesses** of these things.<sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending you on your way with what my Father **promised**; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with **power** from on high."

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.<sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.<sup>52</sup> And they **worshiped** him, and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**;<sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple  **blessing God**.

### Starting Point: Fear (24:36-43)

Note description of disciples

Startled	("shaken")
Terrified	(Intensified "fear": in the presence of a power greater than yourself)
Frightened	("Stirred" by a greater power)
Disbelieving	(Negation: "un"believing)
Wondering	("marveling," typical response to healings, acts of power)

A breaking of expected categories at the edges of understanding  
(where living Christ meets them/us!)

*Meditation*

### Intervention: Understanding the Scriptures

Summarize Intervention/Response:

- 1) Understanding
  - a) Suffer
  - b) Rise
  - c) Proclamation
- 2) Proclamation
  - a) Content: repentance and forgiveness of sins
  - b) Authority: in his name
  - c) Extent: from Jerusalem to all nations
- 3) Power
  - a) Holy Spirit
  - b) Stay! (to Acts 1)

## Understanding

24:45 "He opened their minds to understand the scriptures."

Opened their minds

24:31 eyes opened

24:32 opening the scriptures

24:45 opened minds

"Understand" (*suniemi*: to connect, bring together)

Connected here: the lives of the disciples with full message of scriptures

Implication: a lived experience of suffer/rise/proclaim

Scriptures

Hebrew canon

Law of Moses

Prophets

Psalms

Fulfilled

24:46 "This it is written, the Messiah (Christ) is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,"

"Suffer" (*paschw*)

9:22 Son of Man must

17:25 Son of Man must

24:26 necessary (must)

24:46 must be fulfilled

Note: Cannot have "Christ" without suffering/death

Note: Suffering experience extended from Christ to disciples!

9:21-22 Son of man must

9:23-27 If any want to become my disciples . . .

The "paschal mystery" at the heart of "life!"

"Rise"

24:7!

## Meditation

### Response: Proclamation to the ends of the earth

#### Proclamation

24:47 "and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

"Proclaim" (*kerusso*: proclaim)

Luke 3 John the Baptist

Luke 4:17ff. Jesus

Now: disciples to carry on the proclamation

Content, authority, extent, power of the proclamation follow

Proclamation a "must" element of Gospel fulfillment!

“Repentance” (*metanoia*: change of mind, turning)

- 3:3 John proclaims a baptism of repentance
- 3:8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance
  - Share
  - No greed
  - Use of power
- 5:32 came to call sinners to repentance
- 24:47 proclaimed from Jerusalem to ends of the earth

“Forgiveness of sins”

“forgiveness” (*aphiemi*: lifting)

“sins” (*hamartiai*: missing the mark of God’s holiness;

see also OT expressions: rebellion, turning away)

- 1:77 salvation through forgiveness of sins
- 3:3 baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins
- 5:20, 21, 23, 24 Son of Man has authority to forgive sins
- 7:47, 48, 49 Your sins are forgiven
- 11:4 Forgive us our sins for we forgive others
- 15:18, 21 Father, I have sinned (lost becomes found!)
- 24:47 Proclaimed to all nations

“all nations” (*panta ta ethne*)

- 2:10 for all the people
- 2:32 Simeon: “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel”
- 3:6 John: “and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Isaiah 40:3-5)
- 42:47 proclamation to all nations beginning from Jerusalem
- Ac 1:8 to the ends of the earth

NT drama of extension of Gospel to the Gentiles!

Luke depicts this movement in Acts (1:8/10-11/13ff.)

Who is welcome?

LCGS: we reach out locally and globally

“beginning from Jerusalem”

“Jerusalem”

- 9:51 Set his face to go to Jerusalem
- 24:47 to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem
- Ac 1:8 My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth
- Luke: to Jerusalem
- Acts: from Jerusalem

## Power

24:49 "I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts

1:35 Mary: HS will come upon you  
1:67 Zech. Filled with  
2:25, 26 27 Simeon: HS on him, revealed to him, led him  
3:16 John: more powerful one will baptize with HS  
3:22 HS descended on Jesus at his baptism  
4:1 Jesus full of, led  
4:14 returned in power of HS  
4:18 Spirit of Lord is upon me (Is 61)  
Ac 1:5 you will be baptized with HS  
1:8 You will receive power when HS comes upon you  
10:44, 45, 47 HS came upon Gentiles in same way  
13:2 HS said . . .

Note how Acts 1:1-8 continues Luke 24

### Acts 1:1-8

In the **first book**, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> After his **suffering** he presented himself **alive** to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.<sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them **not to leave** Jerusalem, but to **wait** there for the **promise** of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority."<sup>8</sup> But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you will be my **witnesses** in **Jerusalem**, in all **Judea and Samaria**, and **to the ends of the earth**."

### Holy Spirit in Liturgy

#### Baptism

Promises  
Believe in  
Pour out  
In name of  
Through  
Gift of  
Sealed by  
Affirmation of Baptism  
Stir up  
Confirm  
Empower

### Holy Spirit in Mission and Vision of LCGS

Worship  
Mission  
Nurture  
Gifts

### Growing as Stewards: Luke 14:25-33

**Luke 14:25** Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them,<sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not **hate** father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, **cannot be my disciple.**"<sup>27</sup> Whoever does not **carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**"<sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,<sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'<sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?<sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.<sup>33</sup> So therefore, **none of you can become my disciple** if you do not **give up all your possessions.**

#### Can/Cannot be my disciple

1. Hate

Hyperbole!

In comparison with love for God, every other relationship looks like "hate."

1<sup>st</sup> Commandment of loving God empowers every other relationship, even life

2. Carry the cross and follow me

Cross = instrument of your death

Disciple "comes after" Christ in sharing death/life

See Luke 9:21-24: "Christ must . . . . If any want to become my followers . . ."

3. Give up all your possessions

Literally "say goodbye" to your "being"

Issue is ownership: God is owner of all

Result: I am a steward, not an owner

Of what am I called as a steward? All of my life!