

In the Room with Jesus

Goldstone Church – 10-Apr-16 10:30am

Luke 24:36-49

Introduction

This Bible passage is another of those great post-Easter passages that sometimes get overlooked. It comes straight after Jesus' encounter with the 2 disciples on the the Road to Emmaus. We are sure that Jesus' appearance is genuine, and he proves his identity in several ways.

1. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:36)

"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' (v.36).

There is the absolute certainty that this was Jesus. Not the slightest of doubts. (Not dealing with Jesus' bodily appearance for the moment; we'll get to that later.) This description confirms that Jesus' charisma, aura and authority – Jesus' very personality was present in the room.

2. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:36)

"While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' (v.36).

Surprisingly, the word 'PEACE' here is not the usual 'SHALOM' used for greetings. This is a different word for 'PEACE'; means: *"a call for peace between individuals"*

This is a tranquility that promotes security, safety & harmony.

Interestingly, it's a word that is reserved for the Messiah's peace.

Jesus' words are a possible reference to John 20:19; the disciples were meeting in a room "with the doors locked for fear of the Jews". They were fearing for their lives; they were anxious and frightened. Instead, Jesus proclaims and declares peace.

Jesus is Peace

Remembered what Isaiah said about the Messiah (Isaiah 9:6):

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

3. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PERCEPTION OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:38)

"He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?'" (v.38)

Notice the double-Why in this one sentence. Jesus knew what they were thinking.

Note Luke 5, when Jesus heals the paralysed man – the one who had been let down through the roof by his friends. Luke 5:22 says that Jesus *knew* what the Pharisees were thinking.

Similarly, here with the disciples, Jesus *knew* what the disciples were thinking. This wasn't a trick or a guess. Jesus perceived their thoughts.

He had done this before, so Jesus was being consistent with previous behaviour.

4. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PERSONHOOD OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:39)

“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” (v.39).

Jesus invites the disciples to look at his hands and feet.

Just three days before, the hands that Jesus now showed, had broken the bread at their last supper together. And it was either at the start of that meal, or certainly not that long before, Jesus had washed His disciples' feet. As he did that, the disciples may have also self-consciously looked at Jesus' feet.

Jesus simply invites the disciples to confirm his identity.

The disciples had been following Jesus everyday for at least 3 years. These were down-to-earth fishermen who knew the practical realities of what hands and feet looked like. They were in no doubt; this was Jesus.

5. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PHYSICALITY OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:41-43)

“while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.” (v.41-43). KJV adds = “broiled fish and some honeycomb”

Note:

- a) Broiled Fish and Honeycomb were probably the basic diet of the disciples. In other words, this food wasn't fake; this was *real* food that was easily identifiable.
- b) Jesus “took it” (one physical encounter), then Jesus “ate it in their presence” (another physical encounter). There was biting, chewing and swallowing. Plus sticky fingers afterwards!

Although the disciples may not have believed by looking at Jesus' hands and feet, the eating of broiled fish was *indisputable* proof that Jesus was physically alive.

Jesus wasn't a ghost or an apparition, but a physical being, able to take, lift, eat and digest.

6. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PROPHECIES OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:45-48)

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,’” (v.45-46).

Jesus uses every opportunity to teach and instruct His disciples; once again, emphasising what He came to do. Remember what Jesus said (Matthew 5:17) “*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.*”

Jesus puts everything together; He fulfills in the New Testament what was said in the Old Testament.

7. With Jesus in the room we encounter:

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST

(Luke 24:49)

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (v.49)

Q. What promise is Jesus talking about here?

Less than a week before, just a few days before Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion, Jesus made a promise to the disciples (John 14:25-27):

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father. This is not an after-thought; the Holy Spirit is God Himself, the third person of the Trinity.

Do not be afraid – the Holy Spirit is here with you.

With Jesus in the room we encounter the reality of His PROMISE. This is the promise that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will always have the assurance of His PRESENCE. And suddenly we’re back at the beginning again.

CONCLUSION

Someone has said that, “*the [Communion] Table is the place where we best remember who we are in Christ: where kind and compassionate people forgive each other, just as in Christ, God forgave us.*”

When we celebrate Communion together, the symbols of bread and wine help us realise afresh that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is in the room; here, now, moving among us.

The resurrection verified that Jesus is the Son of God. Through His life, His death and resurrection, we have the undisputable confidence that our sins are forgiven, that we are washed clean, and that we can openly celebrate our new covenant relationship with God.

Let us live in the assurance that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is with us at all times.

Amen