



Opening question –

Ask, What is one of the most amazing things you have seen physically with your own eyes?

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See 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.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴Then 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.” ⁵⁰And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Here are Michael’s observations from the passage -

- “Peace to you!”

In a time of tumult, Jesus is reassuring the disciples that He is a Person of Peace. He is empathetic for and with His disciples. Jesus is empathetic with our uncertainty and our fears. Ask, How are you experiencing the peace of God during this season of life? and, Do you find it difficult to experience peace during this season?

- Hands, feet and fish. Jesus reminds them graciously that He is not only a spirit but He is manifesting Himself physically. Jesus understands their fear. He gives them physical evidence that He is truly alive in human form.

Ask, Are you a science or an arts person? By that, do you rely more on facts or feelings?

- Then He opened their minds to the scriptures. Jesus has to reveal to the disciples and to us (through His Spirit) Who He really is. He illuminates what truth is already there.

- “should be proclaimed” – The message is “repentance for the forgiveness of sin.”

Ask, How do you think you can proclaim Who Jesus is during these days?

How open is your mind to who Jesus really is? How do you view Him?

How about these takeaways –

1. Jesus brings peace. Jesus shows up Himself. He will show up to you. Are you recognizing Him at work in and around your life?
2. Jesus knows humanity. Actually, He knows it intimately since He lived physically. How does it bring comfort to you knowing that we have a God Who understands?
3. Jesus will open your mind. (He knows our hearts.) How might you need to allow God to open your mind to the truth of the gospel?
4. Jesus is to be proclaimed. How might you proclaim Him this week?

The mission of God continues with us or without us. Jesus is the big deal and even though He loves us greatly, we are not the center of the mission of God. He does long for us to join Him in His mission.

The Holy Spirit will clothe you with power. Live in that power that only comes through Christ!

Take time to share prayer requests.