



WEEKLY STUDY

Even When I Don't See It - Week Two

In the penultimate sermon in our long look at the Gospel of Luke, Angela walked us through the account of Jesus' appearance to his disciples. They had been sitting with reports of his resurrection, but were struggling to wrap their minds around it. His appearance to them strengthened their faith and commitment to live as witnesses to the gospel.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Please pray for the High School Seniors who are graduating and continuing to live into the amazing things God has in store for them. Pray that they will always remember their identity as Brave, Strong, Known and Loved children of God.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

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.”

- The appearance and disappearance of Jesus was something the disciples had not seen before. But from that day forward, it would become a common experience of his followers. In [John's account](#), Jesus clearly showed up on the other side of locked doors! It's one thing to hear stories of Jesus' resurrection...it's another thing altogether for him to appear on the other side of locked doors. Where and when have you thought it would be nice for the risen Jesus to show up? Are there any “locked doors” that might reveal a hidden desire to keep him from appearing?

- **Prayer Prompt: Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?**
⁸ **If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. (Psalm 139.7-8)**
- *Jesus, deepen my desire for your appearance in my life. Show up in undeniable ways today. I long to sit in your presence and see your resurrection life. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

- Jesus gives peace. I often think of the presence of Jesus as a peace-inducing presence. Know Jesus, Know Peace, right? Jesus proclaimed peace to his disciples when he showed up in their room. They experienced a lot of things in response to his greeting, but peace didn't immediately bubble up to the surface of their emotions! They thought they had seen a ghost. They didn't have a category for what they were witnessing. And yet, peace is what he wanted for their troubled hearts. Take a moment to write down a few of things that are troubling your heart today. Invite Jesus to show up and speak “peace” over them all.

- **Prayer Prompt: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.7)**
- *Jesus, I want the peace that you offer. May it guard my heart and mind as I make my way through the world today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

- Are you like the disciples who wanted proof that would make sense of what their eyes were seeing when the resurrected Jesus stood in front of them? There was some doubt in the room where they were gathered. It is normal to want to see some hard evidence when something is so unbelievable, and Jesus was kind to show them his nail-scarred hands and feet. Wouldn't it be nice to witness the physical resurrected body of Jesus? What evidence of the resurrection *have* you seen in your own life?

- **Prayer Prompt: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11.1)**
- *Jesus, it sure would be nice if I could see you today. Will you make yourself visible to me? Sometimes doubt creeps in and my faith begins to wane. But my hope remains in you. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

- Jesus explained how all of the scripture was pointing to this moment. He cleared away the remaining confusion and misunderstanding of the disciples, and revealed the true meaning of repentance and the forgiveness of sins made possible through his death and resurrection. And then he reminded them that they were witnesses. Not only did they literally witness these things, their witness was to turn outward. Their response to the resurrection was to share it with the whole world...starting in their very own region. In what ways is your life a response to the resurrection of Jesus? What does your witness look and sound like?

- **Prayer Prompt: “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,
“and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me**

and understand that I am he. (Isaiah 43.10)

- *God, I want to be among those who point to Jesus with their lives. My purpose, the purpose of my life, is to share Jesus and his gift of salvation with everyone I meet. Show up in me today! Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

- The disciples were given their mission but then told to wait. The Spirit was on the way, but how tempting it must have been for the disciples to hit the ground running that very day. It would have been easy to get ahead of the Spirit of God, but the power that was on its way was the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Probably worth the wait. Have you ever felt like you were waiting on God to move? How did you know when He showed up?

- **Prayer Prompt: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Ephesians 6.10)**
- *Jesus, If I have missed out on your purpose for me, or gone ahead of the Spirit, forgive me and make me wait upon you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 24.36-49 (ESV)

- If you read ahead into the first two chapters of the Book of Acts (the continuation of Luke's Gospel) you will see what the power of the Spirit from above looks like. It ignited and empowered the start of the church as we know it today. That power is still available to us! Are there times when we seem to forget that? Is our witness to the world one of power?

- **Prayer Prompt: You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. (2 Corinthians 3.3)**
- *God, fill me with your Holy Spirit and make my life a living testimony to the redeeming work of your Son. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the passage again one more time together. Pay attention to phrases and images that stand out to you. Share what you heard.

- Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ? What did that feel and look like?

Consider the four promises shared by Angela. How does each element of Jesus' appearance impact your life today?

- Jesus brings peace.
- Jesus brings proof.
- Jesus gives purpose.
- Jesus gives power.