

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#105 – “He Stood in Their Midst” – Luke 24:36-43

I. Believing in things that are hard to believe

A. Usually a word of exclamation

1. “I can’t believe it.”

B. Most of our exclamations are over the unlikely, but not the impossible.

1. Someone rising from the dead is impossible.

a. Scripps Howard / Ohio University poll

C. The disciples could not believe it either.

1. Mark 16:11,13

2. Yet, later they did believe it, and it remains central to the Christian church.

D. The text: Luke 24:36-43

II. Exposition

A. Luke 24:36

1. Jesus stands among them.

2. “Peace to you”

a. Ancient Near East background

b. Peace is the first word spoken to the eleven.

c. He had said it earlier – John 14:27.

d. Said to those who had abandoned him – Ps 22:11; 31:11

B. Luke 24:37

1. “Startled” – The disciples were gripped in fear.

2. “Frightened” – used earlier in Luke 24:5

C. Luke 24:38

1. A mild rebuke

D. Luke 24:39

1. Jesus provides physical evidence. Also to Thomas.

a. John 20:27

2. They recognize His voice but now sensory perception includes touch.

a. Acts 1:3; I John 1:1

E. Luke 24:40

1. Some version omit this verse, yet there is greater evidence for including it. John 20:20.

F. Luke 24:41-43

1. Jesus continues to offer proof by eating food.

III. Points for Reflection

A. Jesus speaks peace to all of us.

1. Luke 24:36; Luke 1:79; 2:14; Ephesians 2:13-19

B. Jesus’ bodily appearance was not that of a ghost.

1. Luke 24:41-43

C. Believing in the resurrection of Christ is not a secondary concern of Christianity. It is central, and there is solid evidence for believing in it.

1. Luke 24:39

D. There are three reasons for Christ’s bodily resurrection.

1. I Corinthians 15:13-17