

2019-05-12 ... 6.30pm Evensong ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

Luke 24: 36 – 49

'Luke's Resurrection'

Introduction ...

If you had to pick a favourite gospel – which would you choose?

And would your choice be influenced by what that gospel tells us of Jesus' resurrection?

We're perhaps more used to thinking about which opening we prefer:

Mark – straight into the adulthood of Jesus

Matthew – with Joseph's role and the Magi or Wise Men

Luke – with a concentration on Mary – but not forgetting Zechariah and Elizabeth ... plus the
shepherds

John – and his prologue about 'The Word'

but what about the endings of each Gospel?

Paula Gooder – a New Testament scholar points out how Luke – in the passage we had tonight – acts as a mid-point between John's Gospel and the other two, Matthew and Mark.

So Jesus' greeting '**peace be with you**' is also in John.

The suggestion that **Jesus might be a ghost** – is also in Matthew.

The connection between Jesus' resurrection and the sending of the Spirit – also in John, as is the eating of fish and the showing of hands and feet.

Fear is present in all – but perhaps most in Luke and Mark.

And the expression of doubt or disbelief by the disciples in general is also in Matthew.

Luke and John also give us the most number and details of Jesus' post resurrection appearances.

And it's worth pondering a bit more about the one we have in tonight's passage.

Earlier in Luke, we'd had the 11 disciples disbelieving the witness of the women about the empty tomb, then we'd had the Road to Emmaus with Jesus appearing alongside the two as they walked – followed by them rushing back with this news to Jerusalem – only to discover that Jesus had 'beaten them to it' and appeared to Simon. A couple of verses before tonight's passage – the eleven and their companions had asserted: '**The Lord has risen indeed.**'

So shy were they terrified when Jesus appeared again?

This has something to teach us, to emphasise to us about the difference between what we could term '**head knowledge**' and '**depth of being**' knowledge.

At one level – they knew, they acknowledged, that Jesus had risen ... but at another level they still didn't know what that really meant.

Link to Christian Aid ...

It would take time, it would take a willingness to adjust, it would take experience, it would take commitment ... before that superficial head knowledge became lived experience ... but at least it was a start!

PTO

On this Christian Aid Sunday – there's an obvious application to both the needs publicised, highlighted by Christian aid and the difference our money and prayers can make.

If we stay at superficial 'head level' on the needs ... we won't be able to imagine, to empathise in any way ... and if we want to stay at 'head level' we won't watch the video clips that can help us to deepen our awareness, understanding and knowledge – even at great geographical distances and 'worlds apart' in experience too.

If we stay at superficial 'head level' on the difference our money and our prayers can make – we won't be able to 'rejoice with those who rejoice.'

This has strong links back to Luke 24.

I'm going to conclude with a further quote from Paula Gooder:

I wonder whether we, like the disciples, struggle to get our heads around the consequences of Jesus' resurrection. It is much easier to know that Jesus has risen from the dead – and even to proclaim it – than it is to live in the light of its happening.

All too often we become locked into pre-resurrection ways of viewing the world, of accepting that things are impossible, bleak and without hope.

Living the resurrection involves seeing the world through different eyes: seeing life where there appears to be only death, possibility in the impossible, hope in despair and renewal in stagnation.

This is not a facile 'always looking on the bright side of life' – but a much deeper seeing of the world through new eyes, expecting the God who can raise Jesus from the dead to transform our own stultifying, life-draining impossibilities into something new and life giving.

Alleluia – Christ is risen

He is risen indeed – Alleluia!