BIBLE STUDY
April 8, 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19
Luke 24: 35-48
1 John 2: 1-5a

1. **Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19A.**
    - After Peter and John cure a crippled man, a large crowd gathers, and Peter addresses the crowd. The content of Peter's speech about Jesus is called the **kerygma,** which is the proclamation of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It joyfully proclaims that Jesus is alive and that we are saved by his life-giving death and resurrection.
    - V.13-14: Peter identifies God as the God of the patriarchs. The same God who made the covenant with Abraham and renewed it throughout the years is the one who raised Jesus from the dead. They call Jesus 'servant,' referring to the Suffering Servant in the book of Isaiah. This is one of the earliest titles given to Jesus. Peter does speak plainly in attributing the death of Jesus to the crowds who demanded I his death and gave Barabbas his freedom.
    - V. 15: Jesus is called the author of life whom God raised up from the dead. The apostles are witnesses to this event. They give testimony that Jesus is alive.
    - V. 16: Faith in Jesus Christ is what gave the man healing. The crowd knows him and can see that once he was crippled, but now he can walk.
    - V. 17: Peter attributes the crowd's condemnation of Jesus as having been done out of ignorance.
    - V. 18: Jesus' resurrection fulfills all that the prophets told. Peter is referring to Isaiah who spoke of the suffering Servant who would save many.
    - V. 19: Peter urges the people to repent so that their sins can be forgiven. Repentance is the necessary response to the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection.
2. **Luke 24: 35-48**
    - V. 35: This appearance of Jesus happens after the two disciples have told how they met Jesu on the road to Emmaus.
    - V. 36: While they are telling the others about their experience, Jesus suddenly appears in their midst. This suddenness of the appearances of Jesus is characteristic of these Easter stories. The disciples have no control over Jesus' coming and going. He appears quickly and departs quickly. His appearance is through his initiative, not the efforts of the disciples. Jesus offers them Peace (Shalom)—being in right relationship with God. He wants them to experience a peace that protects them from the trouble of the world.

- V. 37: The disciples are still afraid and surprised when Jesus appears.
- V. 38: Jesus chides them about their fear and doubts.
- V. 39: The wounds of Jesus identify him as the one who was crucified. He is the same Jesus whom they knew in his lifetime. That they can touch him shows that he is not a spirit or a ghost but that he has a unique existence as the glorified risen Lord.
- V. 40: He shows them the wounds on his hands and feet to prove that he is Jesus, the one who was crucified.
- V. 41: The disciples are overcome with joy. It seems too good to be true. While they are rejoicing, he asks for something to eat.
- V. 42-43: They give a piece of fish which he eats in their presence. This is another proof that his existence is unique. He is not a ghost or a spirit, but he has a glorified body that is not confined by space and time. All the details point to a unique existence.
- V. 44: He tells them that all that the Scriptures and the prophets said have been fulfilled in him.
- V. 45: He gives them the gift of understanding the Scriptures as being about him.
- V. 46: The Scriptures say that the Messiah would suffer, die, and rise as he did.
- V. 47: Now this good news is to be preached to the entire world.
- V. 48: The disciples are witnesses to his resurrection, the fulfillment of God's plan, and that this good news is to be preached to the entire world.

3. **1 John 2: 1-5a**
    - V. 1: Jesus is our Advocate—the one who pleads our cause, our defense, and our protector. If we should sin, he will forgive our sins.
    - V. 2: The expiation is his death on the cross which brought us forgiveness of our sins and those of the entire world.
    - V. 3: The quality of our life---obeying the law of God---is the proof that we are in relationship with God.
    - V. 4: If someone claims to know God but does not obey his laws, then he is a liar. Knowledge of God is proven in living a moral life. Knowledge of God is not just intellectual knowledge but putting his word into practice.
    - V. 5a: The one who obeys the word of God and keeps his laws manifests the love of God.