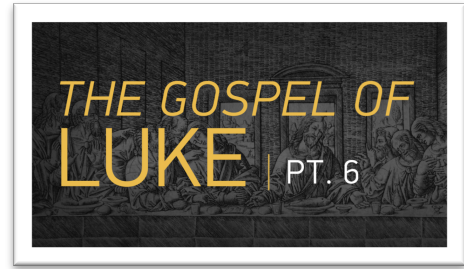


POWER FROM ON HIGH

LUKE 24:36-53 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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In Christ, I will experience “power from on high” to overcome all fears and doubts (24:36-43), grasp the implications of God’s Word (24:44-45), embrace the message of salvation (24:46-47), witness to the world of God’s forgiveness (24:48-49) and be the church (24:50-53).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is one fear or doubt that continues to be a challenge for you to overcome in your life? What practical difference does/should Jesus’ resurrection power make in dealing with that issue?

It is essential to the gospel to proclaim publicly that Jesus came back to life, for real. Look carefully at Luke 24:36-43 to identify the ways that the disciples were allowed to verify that Jesus was not simply a ghost or an imposter pretending to be their former rabbi.

How did Jesus’ death and resurrection begin to fulfill what God said to Satan in Genesis 3:15? What encouragement can you draw from knowing that Satan’s plans to bring about our downfall are overthrown by the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

“Understand that we will always have to work hard at interpreting the Scriptures. They are clear enough to be understood, but that does not mean their depths are grasped by a superficial effort.” – Dr. Bill Mounce

In Luke 24:44 Jesus gives a powerful endorsement of the Hebrew Scriptures, which we know as the Old Testament. How do you put more than a superficial effort into grasping the depths of God's Word? What new approach could you implement to make your time in the Scriptures more consistent and more meaningful?

To embrace the message of salvation, we must repent from sin. (*Consider the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and pick one area where repentance is or was needed. Think about resolving disputes, controlling lust, honouring your marriage vows, valuing personal honesty without exaggerating it, responding to offenses, loving your enemy, etc.*) Where did/do you need to clearly repent? (Fill in the blank below)

When I understood my need for salvation, I realized I was forgiven of the sin of _____ and must repent from it.

How has repentance from sin been demonstrated in your life? What activities or commitments—old patterns renounced and new ones implemented—demonstrate that you have made up your mind to follow God's way instead of your own?

What has the Gospel of Luke taught you about God's capacity to forgive? For one powerful reminder, look at the parable of the prodigal son in 15:11-32.

How can you reflect more of God's example of forgiveness in your broken relationships? Is there any act of humility that God would have you initiate to make it possible for genuine reconciliation?

Jesus considered his disciples to be light and salt, two obviously beneficial elements to a first century community. The church is also called to be light and salt today. What are some obvious benefits our church brings to the community it is part of? How are you directly or indirectly involved in sharing the gospel and "being the church"?