

April 14, 2024

My Upper Room

[Luke 24: 36-49](#)

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Mary Magdalene and the women had been to the tomb; it was empty! Peter and John had run to the tomb; nobody believed her. Befuddled and shocked, they came back to the room where the other nine and followers were gathered.

Shock, fear, and confusing conversations consumed the room. Doors were locked due to the increased Roman presence. In the evening there was a loud knock at the door. Cleopas and a companion had returned from Emmaus, seven miles away. Unbeknownst to them, Jesus had walked with them, stayed, and broken bread with them. They recognized him as he broke bread, and he disappeared. The excitement and screaming conversations exploded in the room.

Jesus appeared in the middle of the room with "Peace be with you." Astonishment and uncertainty were across each face. "It is I, myself. Handle me and see. A spirit has not flesh and bones as I have."

They were still astounded and thinking it was too good to be true. He asked "Have you anything to eat here?" They handed him a piece of cooked fish, and he ate it before them. There were no hallucinations or delusions; it was Jesus.

He told them of the words he spoke to them while he was with them, fulfilled all things written about him by Moses, the prophets, and psalms. He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures. Jesus was to suffer and arise from the dead on the third day; repentance in his name and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations beginning in Jerusalem. He promised help from the father, but he told them to stay in this city until they were clothed with power from on high.

First, this scripture points to the reality of the resurrection. He was no spirit or phantom. They touched him, handled him, and he ate solid food before them. The eleven were acutely aware of the crucifixion as they had seen other crosses of condemned people. They scattered and hid from the Romans and the Sanhedrin. Peter tried to be brave but denied he even knew Jesus three times. The hole of denial dug deeper.

We have to grasp the necessity of the cross. The cross was not an emergency measure where everything else had failed. The cross was not forced on God; it was part of the plan. At the cross we experience the eternal moment of the greatest love the world has ever known. He was the atonement for the sins of all who believed in him.

As I try to embrace "my upper room," I visualize the faces and overwhelming emotions of these eleven personalities who argued among themselves. The "sons of thunder" who were hated as siding with the Romans. They who were crippled, who doubted, who ask "what now." Who was brash and defensive enough to bring the knife? Yet all were weak and heavy burdened to run for cover. Where do I find "I, myself" in this crowd of questioning believers?

Jesus provided the solution to all of their questions. "I will send out the promise of my father upon you. But stay in this city until you are clothed with power from on high." Oh my, what am I receiving? The expectation of given gifts with unexpected arrival.

This creates the perfect wait. As a child I waited for a gift on a given day that created great excitement. The birthday gift, though not as exciting, was disappointing if not received. The birthing of a child is filled with all of life's pleasures, challenges, and joy, but surrounded by *waiting*. Walking with Jesus demands patience, waiting, and knowing that the complete solution will arrive in the fulfillment of time.

My upper room experience challenges my discipleship to the Triune God. Have I embraced the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ? Has my personality received power from on high to boldly proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins? As long as I am, I have room to grow into the person Jesus created.

I have adopted a scripture of my family through the years for my proclamation of possibilities. Joshua 24:15 calls us to "...choose for yourself this day whom you will serve....But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Prayer: *God of the Universe, I repent of sins, known and unknown. Forgive me of unwarranted doubts, fears, and cowardice. Holy Spirit, fill my emptiness that only you know. Awaken my spirit to serve my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while I have breath. In the name of the One who saves me by His Grace. Amen*

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