

## Reflection Questions: Luke 24:36-53

For the message, "When Death Started Working Backwards" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on September 4, 2022

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### INTRODUCTION

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

### **Read the Scripture text: Luke 24:36-53**

**36** As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" **37** But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. **38** And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate before them.

**44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

**50** And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **51** While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **52** And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53** and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**Key Point:** Nothing less than the physical resurrection of Jesus could have transformed the fear-filled disciples into fearless proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus. In the resurrection, Jesus conquered the grave and "death started working backwards." It no longer has the last word, rather, Jesus does.

### QUESTIONS

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- As you read through the text, what grabs your attention? What piques your interest in such a way that makes you think, "I wish Luke would have said more about this"?
- Luke seems to be going out of his way to say that the resurrection of Jesus meant that he had a physical body. In other words, it was not the case that Jesus was simply a spirit or an apparition. Why is the resurrection of Jesus in a physical body significant?

- The resurrection of Jesus is the only thing that could have transformed the fear-filled disciples into fearless proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus. How should the resurrection of Jesus affect as we think about interacting with others about the Good News of Jesus?

## **2. How does this text apply to us as a church community?**

- Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to understand that the Scriptures are all about him: the messiah of God and the mission of God. How should a proper understanding of Scripture keep us focused on the person of Jesus? Or to put it another way, what is the cost if we lose the big picture of all that God is doing to rescue and restore this world in Jesus?
- How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission that Jesus entrusted to his disciples? What is the core message we should be proclaiming based on this passage?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message? Or substitute our own message / agendas?

## **3. How does this text apply to our city?**

- How does this text help us to answer the objection, "I don't think anyone can know if there is life after death"?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

### CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

### PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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