

Bible Study Questions by Nina Thiel (Luke 24:44-49)

Imagine you are the baby-sitters for three small children whose parents are going away for the weekend. You are at their home, and they are leaving in fifteen minutes. What kinds of things do you think they'll tell you?

In this passage, Jesus isn't preparing baby-sitters, he's preparing witnesses. This is his last recorded interaction with his followers in Luke's gospel. As you read Luke 24:44-49, watch and listen for how he prepares them.

WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE TEXT

1. In the preceding passage, two of Jesus' followers have been with the resurrected Jesus, heard him explain his mission from the Scriptures, eaten with him and recognized him. In 24:33-35, these two have returned to Jerusalem to tell "the eleven and their companions" what happened. In the middle of their discussion, Jesus appears. Why does he greet them the way he does?
2. What **words** and **phrases** communicate the thoughts of Jesus' followers in verses 37-43? When have you *wanted* to believe something, but *couldn't* believe it at the same time?
3. What are all the things Jesus does to help them *believe* it is really he, risen from death? How does this strengthen your belief in Jesus?
4. In verses 44-47, what does Jesus want his followers to *understand*? How does he help them understand? When have you experienced a similar "breakthrough" in Bible study?

Sermon Topic: The Father's Promise by Rev Dr Isaac Lim

Luke 24:44-49

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

The promise is repeated in Acts 1:4-5

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

This is supplemented by Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

It is evident that the promise was the coming of the Holy Spirit, the promise however, were for **three possibilities**.

1. God is an enabling God, and He will give us the strength and wisdom to accomplish the burden or task at He has given us. This is reinforced through Acts 1:4-5 when Jesus commands his people to not depart from Jerusalem but to await the strength and power He will provide them with. This is echoed in Acts 1:8 where he explicitly promises them that he will enable them with the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. The **power to be witness to Him** is the promise given by Jesus.
2. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" – Lord Acton. However, the power that the Jesus promises is one that is reinstate the kingdom of God in the lives of man. Jesus made the promise of power to a group of frightened men who had hid themselves from public view to avoid persecution, which was attributed to the corrupt power that man held. This

power would enable them to **stand up against the corruption and extend God's Kingdom across the world**, i.e. Ephesians 6:10-18.

The spiritual baton that was passed on to the twelve disciples from Jesus was a stark reminder that their mission was spread the Word of God to all nations. They were however not alone but in the company of power, personified by the Holy Spirit. This is pertinent in today's context where we observe an unfortunate regression of culture. Societal values run contrary and against the scriptures.

“Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless.” – Spurgeon

The Father's promise was made to fulfill the Father's Plan and guarantees His presence in our lives. This can be seen in John 14:15-17

John 14:15-17

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

The non-believer will be completely ignorant to the presence of the Holy Spirit, which a believer will enjoy and be enriched with. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the promise made by Jesus. The presence indicates the Holy Spirit within us and that results in the nurturing of our beliefs.

3. The promise establishes for us **a special standing in God's Kingdom.**

The Holy Spirit makes us a child of God with His presence in our lives.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

The knowledge that you are a child of God comes from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Romans 8:14/17 reinforces this point. We are all heirs that will receive the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

These words tell us that there is life after life; God has prepared for us an inheritance for us, as children of God.