


Discussion Guide

The Savior Enigma: The Ascension

April 23, 2023

Big Idea

 Jesus ends his time here on earth by imparting 4 P's (gifts) that give us more pieces of the puzzle as to who he is & what he is about.

Icebreaker

Most campuses had dedications &/or baptisms this past Sunday. Share any encouragement you received from witnessing these along with the most powerful testimony you heard. What made that particular testimony most powerful for you?

Discussion Questions

1. Most churches begin a new direction, or sermon series, after Easter. The Lord led Revive Wesleyan to continue with the same series & to continue in Luke to study some of the enigma of Jesus post-resurrection. Why do you feel that may be appropriate, or powerful and/or significant?
2. Read Luke 24:36-37. What "P" (gift) does Jesus impart to his disciples/us here? Thinking about what Peter did & what the disciples did upon his arrest & persecution (what did he/they do?) is it shocking that he offers this "P" versus condemning or scolding or questioning? Why? Are you holding yourself back by feeling you "deserve" condemnation or scolding from God versus His peace? For what reasons? Confess that shortcoming to Him today and receive His forgiveness and peace and move forward in gratitude and a changed life out of that gratitude.
3. Read Luke 24:38-43. What does this scene show us that Jesus is trying to confirm with/communicate to his disciples/us? What "P" (gift) did the sermon tie this scene to? How (through what ways or spiritual disciplines) is he able to be present with us today? Do you pursue, or open yourself up to, his presence consistently; in what ways could you tangibly grow in doing so?
4. Read Luke 24:44-49. What "P" (gift) is Jesus sharing with his disciples/us in this section of Scripture? This was not something the disciples hadn't heard before. What do you think made this time of hearing it hit a little differently with them? How can receiving this "P" impact us today; how should it impact you & affect your life? We are not alone in how we apply the impact of this "P" to our life. Who is with us...It is us + Who? (H____ S____)
5. Read Luke 24:50-53. What 4th "P" (gift) is on display here through Jesus' ascension? How in this scene, does Jesus gift his disciples/us this gift (what is he doing as he is ascending)? Is this blessing meant to be kept to and for ourselves? If not, what are we to do with it? Do you do so? How do the disciples return to Jerusalem & what do they continually do at the temple?

Concluding Question

"...the ascension is not the loss of his (Jesus') leadership & intimacy & protection but the magnification; infinite magnification of it...now instead of staying in time & space where he can only exist in one spot & at one point in time he goes out of time & space." -Tim Keller

- Group, discuss your thoughts on this & the encouragement to be found in it.

Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer

Pray for those baptized this past Sunday & the families who came forward for child dedication. Pray for our *All Campuses Together Service* at McKinley on 4/30 at 10:30am.