

Sermon Guide for Sunday, Apr. 18, 2021

Luke 24:1-48

Today's scripture sounds a lot like last Sunday's scripture, inviting us to think about the importance of things being repeated. What is your experience of hearing something a second or third or fourth time at school or at home or at work?

Last Sunday we focused on John's account of Thomas' encounter with the risen Lord – how Thomas needed to see for himself before he could believe. We talked about the real point of the story being Jesus' willingness to meet us where we are – to do whatever it takes – to help us believe.

This Sunday we move to the gospel of Luke and the encounter the two travelers on the road to Emmaus have with Jesus. Cleopas is one of the travelers. The other is unnamed. Some scholars think this may be so that we can fill in our own name. For example, Cleopas and Cindy walking on the road, meet Jesus, and come to know the truth of the resurrection. What do you think about that? Fill in your own name and think about how that feels!

The two Emmaus disciples run back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the others. It is there that Jesus appears again – as he does to the disciples minus Thomas from last week. He shows them his wounds and even eats broiled fish, proving to them that he is not a ghost. This was to drive home the point that the risen Jesus was really real, not just a spirit, giving them proof of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

How does this story impact your faith? Do you need more proof? What doubts do you have?

Another point of this scripture is Jesus' call to be witnesses to the world. What is your experience with talking about your faith? What would help to make sharing your faith easier?