

*Series: An Easter You'll Never Forget; Sermon: How to Find Forgiveness*  
*Delivered on April 21, 2019, by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor*

***Bible text explored: Luke 24:36–49***

<sup>36</sup>As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup>But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>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.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup>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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.” [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. “Jesus himself” stood among his startled disciples (vv. 36-37). But what about his sudden arrival revealed a dramatic difference? (See *John 20:19*.)  
How would this difference eventually be reassuring to his followers?  
(See *1 Cor. 15:49* and the Easter responsive reading: *1 Cor. 15:17-21* and *51-57*.)  
But just then, why did Jesus’ traditional greeting carry urgent significance for frightened men scarcely able to believe their eyes?
2. In two ways (vv. 38-43) Jesus practically dispelled his disciples’ doubts. How would examining his hands and feet establish that he was the one just crucified?  
How would seeing him eat food demonstrate that he could not be an apparition?  
How did this reassurance ultimately affect his disciples? (See *1 John 1:1-4*.)
3. Centuries later, how is strong confidence in Jesus’ death and resurrection buttressed by the following factors?
  - a) Evidence of the reliability of the Bible record. How does the number of its ancient copies compare with those of other ancient texts?
  - b) Corroboration from Greek and Roman historians of the same era (such as Tacitus, Thallus, and Josephus)?
  - c) Understanding that the Bible is not pitted against science? (Pastor Josh quoted 16<sup>th</sup>-century astronomer and physicist Galileo: “The Bible tells us how to go to the heavens, not how the heavens go.”)
4. To what (v. 44) did Jesus say he’d previously taught his disciples that all three sections of the (Old Testament) Scriptures pointed?  
Now (vv. 45-46), how did he “open” their minds to grasp how his suffering and death were essential to the fulfillment of those Scriptures?  
(See *Ps. 2:1-2; 22:12-18; Isa. 50:4-7; 52:13-53:9*.)  
How about his resurrection? (See *Ps. 16:8-11; Isa. 53:10-12*.)

5. What (vv. 47-48) was to be the primary role of the apostles? (See *Isa. 49:6.*)  
What were they being tasked to proclaim?
6. How must the hearers of this message respond?  
What “letter of pardon” has God promised?
7. The fulfillment of what promise (v. 49) did Jesus say would empower both his disciples and their repentant hearers? (See *Joel 2:28-29, 32.*)