

Sunday, April 14, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.*  
—Robert Louis Stevenson

In today's reading, the disciples — minus Judas — have gathered in Jerusalem, along with “their companions” (v. 33) and the two men Jesus encountered on the road to Emmaus (vv. 13-33). Suddenly, Jesus popped unannounced into their midst and said, “BOO!”

Actually, he said, “Peace be with you.” But the effect was the same. “They were startled and terrified, and *thought that they were seeing a ghost*” (v. 37, emphasis added).

Have you ever seen a ghost? The disciples thought that what they were seeing was a ghost, like the time they were fishing (see Mark 6:49-50).

What is striking about this reading is Jesus' insistence that he wasn't a ghost. Jesus goes to great pains to demonstrate that he is not a sprite, apparition, phantom or ghost. He quickly establishes the physicality of his presence. “Look at my hands and my feet,” he said to them. “See that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have” (vv. 39-40). At this point, he also “showed them his hands and his feet” (v. 40).

Why the stress on the humanity of Jesus? Many reasons, but one big one is because *Jesus is our brother* — one of us. The writer of Hebrews explains: Jesus “had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect ... because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested” (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Jesus is one of us. The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost. They were wrong. He was one of them. And if we are to have a ghost of a chance at experiencing the power of the resurrected life of Christ, we, too, must put aside any ghost stories. He is risen. Thanks be to God!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, you broke the bonds of death. You are risen and alive! And now, you give us peace. Help me to enjoy the blessings of your peace. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben Woltz*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** Luke 4-6
- Monday:** Joshua 4-6
- Tuesday:** Joshua 7-9
- Wednesday:** Joshua 10-12
- Thursday:** Joshua 13-15
- Friday:** Joshua 16-18
- Saturday:** Psalms 34-36

*Verse to Remember*

*“But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O LORD my God, who will answer.”*

—Psalm 38:15

S	E	T	S	A	I	S	E	L	C	C	E	D	H	T
O	E	J	D	R	I	N	Y	G	L	E	I	N	A	D
N	J	O	S	E	E	S	T	H	E	R	G	A	I	M
G	E	S	E	E	U	B	A	H	O	S	E	A	D	U
O	R	H	Z	S	L	T	M	I	J	O	N	I	A	H
F	E	U	E	O	E	C	E	U	A	A	E	H	B	A
S	M	A	K	M	V	H	I	R	N	H	S	C	O	N
O	I	C	I	A	I	H	A	N	O	J	I	A	A	R
L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	R	U
O	H	H	L	N	I	G	H	B	N	R	O	A	Z	T
M	I	A	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	M	E	H
O	D	C	G	K	U	K	K	A	B	A	H	C	Y	O
N	K	I	N	G	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	R	T
K	V	M	P	S	A	L	M	S	U	D	O	X	E	U
J	U	D	G	E	S	I	S	A	M	U	E	L	U	Z

**OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS**

Use the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible to find a list of the books in the Old Testament. Then, locate them in the box to the left by searching horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward or backward.

Numbered books, such as 1 KINGS, appear only once without their numbers.

**ANSWER:** What God promises, God will provide.



**DECODE THIS MESSAGE!** Use the lowercase letters to decode the message. Answer is in the box above.  
**SHwhGaRtgDEWodCRpAroJomiLYsesPRgQUAoSBdwODSiIKNlpXOLroNOvWiTYde.**