

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

April 14, 2024 • 3rd Sunday of Easter • Luke 24:35–48

Worth the Risk

The Risen Jesus appears again to the disciples. This time he wants to make sure that they don't think he is some kind of apparition or ghost. So Jesus not only shows them the wounds in his hands and feet, he eats with them. Finally, he opens their minds to understand more clearly the Scriptures.

Jesus was crucified. The disciples who had followed him for years were alone with their questions. Many of them had given up everything to walk with Jesus. They saw him as their Messiah—the Savior of Israel—the person who would reclaim their country's greatness. The great adventure appeared to be all over when, suddenly, Jesus was again in their midst.

In this account of Jesus appearing to his disciples, Jesus shows his wounded hands and feet to all the disciples so they will believe it is he. He asks for food and eats it to prove he is not a ghost. And then the Risen Jesus opens their minds, and they begin to understand all that he taught them. He helps them to rethink Scripture readings they had heard since they were children.

Finally, the disciples get it. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Savior, but he is savior to more than Israel. Jesus' kingdom stretches beyond time and place. Everything they saw and heard takes on a new meaning. When Jesus died they thought their mission had ended; instead, their great adventure had just begun.

How often do we react as the disciples did, writing off a person because of our limited point of view? How often do we do this to a child, our spouse or a good friend when we don't wait to hear the whole story or explanation? Trust requires patience and sometimes an openness to even the improbable. As we learn from this Gospel it is not easy, but the reward for our trust may be worth the risk.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss what your family would do if Jesus knocked on your door and asked to have dinner with you.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What do the words "Jesus" and "Savior" mean to you? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?