

UNDONE

4. unDOING HVC, April 19, 2020 Luke 24:35-49 (NIV)

Can you relate to having ‘amnesia’ after celebrations and holidays? Does Easter tend to fade into the background after it’s over?

Does Jesus’ resurrection seem remote and unattached to your daily reality? Or intimately connected (if so, how)?

Luke 24:35-37 (NIV)

Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

Have you ever witnessed something that seemed inexplicable by ‘normal’ reasons? What was that like?

Can you identify with the disciples’ reaction? What about their reactions make the most, and least, sense?

Luke 24:38-43 (NIV)

He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts

rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

It took the disciples a while to accept and believe what they were seeing. Have you ever had something in life that was real and amazing but difficult to believe?

Why was it important for them to see his hands and feet? Why did Jesus establish his physicality (i.e that he was not a ghost)?

Luke 24:44 (NIV)

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

How has God followed through on his promises in your life?

How does Jesus’ appeal to the Old Testament underscore its authority?

Are you ever tempted to regard the Old Testament as ‘second class Scripture’? Why? And what are the effects of that perspective?

Luke 24:45-46 (NIV)

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day..."

Have you ever experienced God 'opening your mind' to the Scriptures? Why does that happen some of the time but not others?

Is it hard to affirm that Jesus' suffering and death were part of God's plan? Do you ever see your personal suffering and pain that way? What would change if you did?

Luke 24:47-48 (NIV)

...and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

In your own words, what do 'repentance' and 'forgiveness' mean? How did Jesus model them?

Do you ever struggle with repentance and asking for forgiveness? Why?

How important are those concepts to a healthy personal relationship?

What do you make of the idea that Jesus delegates his authority to his followers to carry out this mission?

Discuss: "Killing Jesus was like trying to destroy a dandelion seed-head by blowing on it." Walter Wink

Do you ever see yourself as part of a movement? Does that idea help or encourage you?

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

How well does this summarize the mission of the church: "Preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit"? What (if anything) is missing?

What did you make of the idea that **all** of Jesus' followers are called to this mission, no matter their age, giftedness, etc? Do you see yourself as part of this mission, as having a role to play?

If there was a scale of 1-10 (ten being high) measuring the strength of your verbal witness to Christ, where are you? How can you improve a few notches?

When was the last time you explained the Christian faith to someone who wasn't a Christian? What was that like? What happened (with them and in you)?

HVC's Core Value of Full Time Calling talks about connecting our ordinary work with Jesus' mission. What do you make of that? How is your normal work (paid, at home, in school) helping to unDO death and suffering?