

Luke 24:36-53 Vital Church – a Praising People

Looking back

We want to grow together, so let's just review what God has done in us from the last study:

- How did you get on? How has God changed things in your life as a result of your response to the last study?
- What have you found difficult?
- If you haven't really thought much about it at all since last time, think of some suggestions that might help us recall and apply God's word this time around.

Getting into the passage

Read **Luke 24:36-53** together

For each study we need to ask some basic questions. Be honest, and help one another learn:

- Was there anything in the sermon that you didn't really understand or had you confused?
- What particular things did God challenge you about to apply in your life / heart?
- Was there anything you struggled with or disagreed with?

Learning from the passage

Think through in groups and report back: What are the main causes of Rejoicing and Praise within your experience of church (whether SBC or elsewhere), and in your own personal experience?

In **Phil 4:4** we have the command to "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

- Is this unrealistic?
- What do you find hard about this command?

Look at the context in **Phil 4:6-9, 12-13**.

- What are the things that are key in Rejoicing always?
- How, practically, does this mean we should respond within real-life situations where we don't feel we can rejoice?

In our passage, **Luke 24:36-53**, the Disciples go away praising God, and live in an attitude of praise (see **Acts 2:41-47, Acts 16:25, Col 3:16**)

What is the importance of the connection between **v38** and what Jesus tells them to do in **v39-40**?

- How can we, today, do the same?
- In what ways should the resurrection of Jesus be our great encouragement?

In **v44-46** we are told that he 'opened their minds so that they could understand the scriptures'.

- What does this phrase mean?
- Do we need to seek God to do the same thing for us?
- Why is this 'understanding of the scriptures' so vital in encouraging us and leading us to praise?
- What can we take-away with us to do in response?

v46b-48 are a statement. Yet, the context tells us that it is also a response to their disappointment and sorrow.

- How can this statement be an encouragement to praise?
- Have a look at **1 Thess 4:13-18**. What is the encouragement here?
- What is the link, if any, to what Jesus said in **John 14:1-3**?

Therefore, what is it that we should keep in mind that should cause our praise?

v49 obviously talks of Pentecost, but also links to what Jesus said in John 14:35-37. So, is this only for Pentecost?

- What does **Rom 8:9-11** tell us a key work of the Spirit is?
- How does this encourage us and lead us to praise?
- How, in your Home Group, might you do more to reflect on all God is doing among you and so lead to greater encouragement and praise?

In **v50-51** Jesus ascends after lifting up his hands and blessing them

- What encouragement does each of these things bring?
- What do you know of the ascended Jesus that should bring praise? (point to other Bible passages, if you can)

Regular Questions to End

Each time you meet we'd love you to end by asking some searching questions around the group. Be honest, so you can support one another as you learn and apply these things together in the days ahead!

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- Is there one thing you are going to take away with you as an encouragement?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?