

**Jesus in Our Heart
Bible in Our Hands
Feet Out the Door
January 4, 2009
Luke 24:36-49
Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr.**

Synopsis:

Two years ago through our Refocusing Process we adopted the vision statement,

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How are we doing in 2009? Let's take a look at our church *and* our lives as we move into the new year.

I.

Jesus in Our Heart

Luke 24:36 Jesus himself stood among them

Setting in Luke's Gospel: Post Resurrection Appearances

-3+1 = women, Emmaus, here, Acts 1

-Here: 3 things Jesus tells them

1. Who he is
2. Where to find him
3. Who they are

Start with **Who is Jesus?**

READ Bible: Luke 24:36

"Jesus in the midst of them" = Jesus in our heart

What does this mean?

1. READ vv37-43 = Jesus is *really* here
-not a ghost, come back from dead
-hands, feet, touch, eat

*Jesus is really here, not

-in our minds
-in spirit
REAL PRESENCE = communion

2. READ v36 = Jesus in our heart = *en meso/b'lev*

-*in* them
-*among* them
*Personal *individual* relationship
*Personal *communal* relationship

Here's the take away:

-Write up your testimony of an individual and communal relationship with Jesus
-We are going to do this with our elders this year

E.g. My testimony: Montvale, Bob, George, Jim, Darrell, Frank, Quinn, Barbara

II.

Bible in Our Hands

Luke 24:45 He opened their minds to understand the scriptures

Second: **Where do we find Jesus?**

What are the options?

1. READ vv44-45 = Bible

-Jesus words (NT) along with Moses, Prophets, Psalms (OT)
through opening our minds in personal relationship

*We locate Jesus through reading the Bible in a personal relationship with Jesus

2. READ vv46-47 = Message of the Bible

-Bible has a narrative/story
-We live by narratives/stories

Here it is: This is the Bible's story

God's chosen, Jesus, suffers and dies, is raised from the dead in victory to forgive our sins. We have a chance to turn to Jesus, and to take the message to others.

Here's the take away:

Start reading your Bible daily
Ask Jesus to make himself known to you
One Year Bible on sale now!
We are going to do this with our elders this year

III.

Feet Out the Door

Luke 24:48 You are witnesses of these things

Third: Who are we?

1. READ vs48 = Our identity

- What is a witness (*marturos*)?
- Witness tells what he or she experiences (these things)
- Problem is that we think we have to learn something else
- We tell what we have experienced with Jesus
E.g. "Here's what's been happening with me"
- *It is that easy

2. READ v49 = Power is not from us

- "from on high" preview of Acts 1&2 (Holy Spirit)
- Someone puts gas in your tank
- *Go where God has put gas in your tank
E.g. Easy for me to go across the street

Here's the take away:

- Where has God opened a door for you?
- Think of one place you can go?
- Think of one/two places Geneva can go?
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you

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How are we doing?

How are you doing?