

“Now You See Him, Now You Don’t!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Announce:** *Rodrigo Rodriguez* this Wed night.
 - 1.1.1. He has made many CD's, concerts tours, and performances world wide since the age of 15.
- 1.2. **Prayer:** KP w/GFA asks for our prayers for the **flood victims** in **India**.
 - 1.2.1. Death toll, up to 2000. Displaced/stranded people, up to 19 million across *Northern India, Bangladesh, & Nepal*.
 - 1.2.2. **Worse flooding in 30 years.**
- 1.3. **History:** This book, this chapt, concludes our 2nd time through the NT.
 - 1.3.1. I'll tell you at the end **what book** we'll go into next.
- 1.4. **Title:** **Know You See Him, Now You Don't!**
- 1.5. **Outline:** **Reappearing; Reassuring; Revealing & Re-entry.**
- 1.6. **Illustration:** I've traveled in different countries where I've needed 3 maps: 1 of the **freeways**(expressways); 1 of the **surface streets**; & one of the **subway system**. [almost have to stack the 3 to get full picture]
 - 1.6.1. **Each map is accurate and correct, but each map does not give the complete picture.**
 - 1.6.2. Maybe that's a good perspective we should keep of Christ also. His **deity & humanity**(his earthly life & his heavenly) **But maybe there's a 3rd**, His transition between the 2, as we continue with this morning.

2. REAPPEARING! (36)

- 2.1. *Shalom Alechem* – **Peace to you.**
- 2.2. **Here's the question:** If the disciples believed Jesus was risen, why were they startled & frightened when Jesus appeared to them? **see 34,35**

3. REASSURING! (37-43)

- 3.1. **THEIR PANIC!** (37)
- 3.2. **Why are you troubled?** – *Ahh, no reason really!*
- 3.3. The apostles are **troubled** fearing persecution from the authorities.
- 3.4. The apostles are **terrified** meeting behind locked doors.
 - 3.4.1. **Jn.20:19 “On the evening of that 1st day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”**
- 3.5. The apostles are **frightened** believing He is a ghost/spirit!(37,39)
 - 3.5.1. **He was not** merely a ghost, or a vague “*spiritual entity*”.

3.5.2. He was fully present physically, with special capacities not available to **un-resurrected** persons; **such as** becoming **invisible(31) & passing through walls.**

3.6. **HIS PROOF!** (38-43)

3.7. He offers a **2-fold proof**, showing he's **not a ghost** but has a **real body**.

3.8. **1st PROOF – Shows Wounds!**

3.8.1. **Look carefully & touch me.**

3.8.2. When Paul asked, **“How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?”** He answers his own question by going to **nature** using the **seed** phenomenon.

3.8.3. 1 Cor.15:36-28(NLT) **“When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed.”**

3.8.4. **Personality** is not dependent on the identity of our **material** dwelling.

3.8.4.1. **Think about this...**None of us has the same body that we had 7 years ago(most wish we did). **There is not a particle of us here now that was us then!**

3.8.5. **Why did He keep appearing & disappearing?**

3.8.5.1. He was getting them accustomed to the fact, that even when he was **not visible** to the eyes of the earthly body, He was still **present & available!**

3.9. **2nd PROOF – Eats Food!**

3.9.1. He was capable of eating.

3.10. Having assured them of His **physical resurrection**, Jesus gave them His **final instructions**.

4. REVEALING! (44-49)

4.1. **REVIEWS HIS PAST MINISTRY!** (44-46)

4.2. The **Torah** of Moses; the **Prophets** (*N'vi'im*); and the **Psalms** (standing for the Wisdom books or *K'tuvim*), in other words, the entire **Tanakh**¹ (T-N-KH).

4.3. (45) **He opened their understanding** – “to thoroughly open up” (it is like a picture **blurred, out of focus**, finally coming into **sharp focus**)

“Many can bring the Scripture to the mind, but the Lord alone can prepare the mind to receive the Scriptures!”²

4.3.1. Unbelievers have a **veil** upon their hearts which the eyes of **carnal reason** cannot **penetrate**.

¹Stern, D. H. (1992). *Jewish New Testament commentary : A companion volume to the Jewish New Testament*. Includes index. (1st ed.) (Lk 24:44). Clarksville, Md.: Jewish New Testament Publications.

² Charles Spurgeon; Morning & Evening; Jan.19 Evening.

- 4.3.2. Just like when **we** were _____ once spiritually blind.
Truth was to us as *beauty in the dark*, a thing *unnoticed & neglected*.
- 4.3.3. We can no longer have attained **spiritual knowledge** than an **ostrich** can fly up to the **stars**.
- 4.3.4. Others can teach us what is to be believed, **but** Christ alone can show us how to believe it!
- 4.4. (46) **Necessity of the Cross!** - It was necessary for Christ to suffer.
- 4.4.1. All the Scriptures looked forward to the cross.
- 4.4.2. The cross was **not** forced on God.
- 4.4.3. It **wasn't** an **emergency measure** when all else had failed.
- 4.4.4. It was **the plan of God**, for it is the one place on earth, where in one moment of time, we see **His eternal love**.
- 4.5. **Necessity of the Resurrection!** - It was necessary for Christ to rise.
- 4.5.1. He was no phantom or hallucination. He was real.
- 4.5.2. Christianity is not founded on the **dreams** nor the **imagination** of men, **but on** One who in actual historical facts, *faced & fought & conquered* death...& **rose again!**
- 4.6. **PREVIEWS THEIR FUTURE MINISTRY!** (47-49)
- 4.7. Vs.46 was **God's** part, **now** vs.47 is **our** part!
- 4.7.1. To all men must go the call to **repentance** & the priceless offer of **forgiveness**.
- 4.7.2. **The church was not left to live in the upper room!**
It was sent out into all the world!
- 4.7.2.1. After the upper room came the worldwide mission of the church.
- 4.7.3. The days of **sorrow** were past, & the **tidings of joy** must be taken to all men.
- 4.8. (47) The apostles will be filled with the Holy Spirit, **enabling them** to become faithful witnesses!
- 4.9. **Our churches Mission Motto is: To live the Great Commandment, To fulfill the Great Commission.** [Share with you soon our churches Vision statement, Mission Statement, & Core Values]
- 4.10. **The equation: He opens the Scriptures/We open our mouths & tell others.**
- 4.11. **Illustration:** A penny doubled. [Mike N does in discussing \$ w/people]
I have an employment opportunity. The job will pay **1 penny** the **1st day** & will be **doubled every day after that for 1 month**. After that you must work for no additional pay.
How long would you be willing to work after that first month?
[A year? 5 years? The rest of your life?][$\$10,737,418.24$ $\$21,474,836.47$]

- 4.12. **"Spiritual multiplication"**
- 4.13. Let's suppose that Billy Graham - by most accounts the greatest evangelist of the 20th century - preached the Gospel in a stadium filled with 50,000 people every night for 35 years. Let's also suppose that each night during this time, 1,000 people came to faith in Christ. By the end of this 35-year period, we would still be **further behind** in our task of world evangelism than we are right now because the population of the world is growing faster than that.
- 4.14. **Imagine with me** that you are the only Christian alive on planet Earth. **Imagine further that** you prayed that God would allow you to lead **one person** to faith in Christ this year. If God answered your prayer (as I believe He would), by the end of 2007 there would be 2 Christians.
If each of you led someone to Christ the following year, there would then be 4 Christians. If this process continued, there would be 8 Christians by the end of the 3rd year; and so on.
If you extrapolate this process out over **35 years**, roughly **35 billion** people would have become Christians, which - incredibly enough - is almost 5 times the world population!
- 4.15. This is but a tiny glimpse of the power of **spiritual multiplication**, because - obviously - you are not the only Christian in the world. If every committed Christians alive today led **one person to faith** in Christ **each year**, by **the year 2013** we would virtually run out of people to evangelize!
- 4.16. **Note:** He gives the **message**, the **commission**, & the **power!**
- 4.17. **Necessity of The Power!**
- 4.17.1. They had to wait in Jerusalem until power from on high came upon them.
- 4.17.2. **Q:** Ever feeling that you are wasting time waiting on God?
4.17.2.1. **But action w/o preparation** must often fail!
- 4.17.3. **There is time to wait on God & time to work for God!**
- 4.18. The **quiet times** in which we **wait on God** are never wasted; **for** it is in these times when we **lay aside life's tasks**, that we are strengthened for the **very tasks we lay aside**. (William Barclay)

5. **RE-ENTRY! (50-53)**

- 5.1. **HIS BLESSING!** (50,51)
- 5.2. Jesus is most likely raising his hands and pronouncing over the congregation the Aaronic benediction of Numbers 6:24–26.
- 5.3. **THEIR BLESSING!** (52,53)
- 5.4. **Note progression:** *terrified & frightened*(37); *still did not believe*(41); *they worshipped Him & returned to Jerusalem with great joy*.
5.4.1. Earlier when Jesus was taken from them by death, they were *demoralized, disheartened, & discouraged*.

- 5.4.2. **Now**, after being **assured** of His resurrection, they were able to **rejoice even though** He departed from them. 😊
- 5.4.3. What better could show the difference made by their **confidence** in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?³
- 5.5. **They worshiped him** - because they now understood who he was, the Son of God, divine and worthy of worship, yet without being a “second god”.
- 5.5.1. Isaiah 9:5 “**For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace(36).**”
- 5.5.2. Worshipping something *less than* God would have been considered **idolatry** by every one of these highly religious Jewish disciples.⁴
- 5.6. **So all life became worship, every place a temple, every act, adoration!**
- 5.7. **The Ascension’s Importance:**
- 5.8. It concluded Jesus **earthly** ministry.
- 5.9. It allowed eyewitnesses to see **both** the risen Christ on **earth**, & the eternal Christ returning to **heaven**.
- 5.10. The Ascension **expanded Christ’s ministry** from its geographically limited **earthly** dimensions, to its **heavenly** dimensions.
- 5.11. **It pointed to a friend, not only on earth, but in heaven also!**
- 5.11.1. **To die is not to go out into the dark; it is to go to Him!**
- 5.12. They were now linked to someone who was **forever independent** of **space & time**.
- 5.13. **Luke’s Conclusion:**
- 5.14. Luke’s gospel **ends** where it **began**...in the house of God! *Zach/Gabriel*
- 5.15. The best place to **end** a study of Luke is the **1st chapter of Acts**(vs.1).
- 5.15.1. The story of all He began to do & teach.
- 5.15.2. **In the book of Acts we have the story of His continued doing & teaching.** The linkage being **the Holy Spirit**.
- 5.15.3. The book of Acts could also be called “Luke Part II”.
- 5.15.3.1. Which as Mike Hebebrand shared w/me this week, **“its Luke that is given the most content in the NT.”**
- 5.15.3.2. Luke writings make up 28% of the Greek NT.
- 5.16. **We’ll be going into the book of Acts next!**

³ Shepherds Notes; Luke; pg.96

⁴Stern, D. H. (1992). *Jewish New Testament commentary : A companion volume to the Jewish New Testament*. Includes index. (1st ed.) (Lk 24:52). Clarksville, Md.: Jewish New Testament Publications.