

## THE RISEN SHEPHERD

<sup>36</sup> While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" <sup>39</sup> "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> While they still could not believe [it] because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; <sup>43</sup> and He took it and ate [it] before them. <sup>44</sup> Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> "You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy .

Luke 24:36-52 NASB

- I. Jesus comes to his friends.
  - \* Jesus is a master at coming to his friends where they are, and not where they should be.
- II. Jesus addresses their fears.
  - \* Jesus surfaces their fears in his presence.
- III. Jesus shows them his wounds.
  - \* He is not a mirage, a ghost, or an apparition.
- IV. Jesus opens their minds to the Scriptures.
  - \* Jesus explains God's great story from beginning to end, all fulfilled in his death, burial, and resurrection.

V. He leads them out.

\* Jesus gently shepherds his friends out of paralysis, out of death, out of hiding.

VI. He promises them power.

\* Jesus says the Father will empower them to be his witnesses.

VII. Jesus blesses them with favor.

\* He raises his arms, showing his covenant scars, and gives them the high priest's blessing. (Numbers 6:24-26)

*<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you, and keep you; <sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.*

VIII. They return to the temple.

\* All is new. All makes sense. They will gladly give their lives as witnesses.