

The Great Commission

Luke 24:36-53

by Don Falkos

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The disciples were still talking about the resurrection and about Jesus appearing to some of them, when suddenly Jesus himself was standing there saying, "Peace be with you."

The disciples were startled and frightened because they thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Don't let doubts overwhelm you. Look at my hands. Look at my feet. It's really me. Touch me and see. I'm not a ghost. I'm solid. I'm made of flesh and bone."

They still couldn't believe it. It seemed too good to be true.

Then Jesus asked, "Do you have anything to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish and watched as he ate it.

Then he said, "As I told you before, everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the prophets, and in the Psalms must be fulfilled. The scriptures say the Messiah must suffer and then rise from the dead on the third day. Then everyone everywhere, beginning in Jerusalem, must be told what has happened and must be encouraged to turn back to God in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. You have to tell them. But don't worry. I'm going to send you what my Father has promised. Stay in Jerusalem until you receive power from heaven."

Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany on the Mount of Olives. He raised his hands and blessed them. While he was still speaking, he left them and was taken up into heaven. The disciples worshiped him and went back to Jerusalem bursting with joy. They spent all their time in the temple praising God.