

Pastor D's Letter May 8, 2022

Luke 24:44-48

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **YOU ARE WITNESSES** of these things.

Last week, in the newsletter, I shared with you about going to the WCPPC (West Coast Presbyterian Pastor's Conference). Over the next few weeks, I want to share with you some of the things I learned while I was there. But before I share this week's thought, I want to let you know that after coming home I (and several others in attendance) tested positive for Covid 19. While the CDC guidelines would allow for me to preach this weekend, it seemed better to take precautions and wait another week before coming back into the office and the pulpit.

To all the women in our congregation, let me take this opportunity to say, "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY". Yes, I said "ALL" the women. Whether you have children or not when we baptize children in our congregation everyone vows to help raise the child with the knowledge of Jesus as Savior. That makes all the women spiritual "mothers" and all the men spiritual "fathers" for the children of our church. So, HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all the women of SVPC!

Speaking of sharing Jesus with children and other people, that is what I was reminded about on Thursday morning at WCPPC. As Jim Edwards spoke, he mentioned that as Christians, we don't coerce, prove, or argue our faith, we are called to be witnesses. From February through April, we learned about Cold Case Christianity. But here is the interesting thing, "Cold Case Christianity" wasn't about proving our faith. It was about learning that we can be WITNESSES of our faith because it is true beyond a reasonable doubt. Some people study "apologetics" to defend the faith they believe. But what God calls us to do. What God calls us to be is "WITNESSES!"

On one hand that is scary because it means talking to people we know about Jesus! But here is the good news. You don't have to defend, prove, argue or coerce people to believe. All God wants us to do is **share** our faith. That actually makes the dreaded "e" word not scary because "evangelism" isn't about learning a method as much as it is being willing to share about our relationship with Jesus.

Remember Jesus' words in Luke 24 (see above). After explaining who he was Jesus told his disciples (that's us) to be witnesses. Jesus did not say: "Prove my existence; Argue that I am Lord of all; Coerce people into believing in me." Jesus said, "YOU ARE WITNESSES." In Acts 1:8 Jesus gave his final instructions. **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.** BE MY WITNESSES! That's easy. When you have opportunity with the kids in church, love them and talk to them about Jesus. When you have friends who are struggling with Covid 19 or others illnesses, love them and pray with them and talk about Jesus who gives you hope.

With all God's blessing in our lives, how can we not witness to his great blessing in our life.

Dr. D

NEWS UPDATES

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- Join us for **Fellowship after Church**.
- **JOIN US FOR WVN Bible Study this Wednesday @6p.m. Luke 7.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.** **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.
- Join us on **Sunday May 15th** , we will be making sandwiches for Crossroad Missions, Bring Peanut butter and jelly, lunch meat, bread will be provided.
- Wednesday 25th at 6:00pm, we will have a **WATER FUN DAY**, hot dogs & hamburgers will be provided. **Bring a dish to share.**