Our scripture comes from Luke 24:36-47. While you’re finding that - A college student couldn’t take his final exam because of a funeral. He went to his teacher and his teacher said, "No problem, make it up the following week." The next week came, and again he couldn't take the test due to a funeral. The teacher said, "Well, you'll have to take the test early next week.” Sure, as long as no one dies” the student replied. By now, the instructor was frustrated. "How can you be related to everyone in town?" The student answered. “I’m not, but I am the only gravedigger in town." This morning we encounter the only Risen Savior, the only Way to God in town.

**Luke 24:36-47 36Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” 37But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?39Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” 40When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” 42So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43And He took *it* and ate in their presence. 44Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

The risen Christ appears to the disciples. The disciples have gathered – two disciples went down to Emmaus and encountered Christ along the way. The distance between Emmaus and Jerusalem is around five miles. The disciples reached Emmaus, realized that they’d been walking with the Risen Savior and they rushed back to tell the others. This is the scene we find ourselves in this morning. They have arrived and are talking, excitedly I’m sure, about their experience! When Jesus Himself appears, not outside the window, not up in the sky, not across the street, but in their midst. It would be like if Jesus appeared right now in the center aisle and stood amongst us. And they were terrified! The Master many had seen crucified, some had seen a spear thrust into His side, some knew that He’d been carried away and laid in a tomb, some had seen Him sealed in and guards posted… That Master was standing here in their midst. I can understand why they’d be frightened, terrified, awestruck!!

Jesus asks, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?” Such a classic question for every believer who has ever followed Jesus! This is not a question peculiar to the disciples in that room on that day, but peculiar to every disciple in every room, everywhere, today! Why are we troubled? Why do doubts arise in our hearts? We know the Jesus we serve. We know the position He holds. We know our ultimate destination. Why are we troubled and why do doubts arise in our hearts?

In verses 39-43, we see Jesus do several things. He shows them His hands and feet, talks about flesh and bones, eats in their presence, and they still did not believe… they marveled, but did not believe. Luke, a physician, is documenting Jesus doing things that a ghost could not do! Many of us recall watching Scooby Doo. When they discovered how old man Smithers did what he did, there was a sheet, wires, and a projector. Jesus is proving that He is Risen… no smoke, no mirrors! We know His body is not the same as when He went to the Cross, because He passes through walls and appears at will. But He has a body, a real body, bearing the scars of the Cross. He is Risen!

Verse 44, Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Genesis to Malachi proclaims Jesus at every turn and leads us with certainty to the day that we too gaze upon Jesus and believe. There is proof in the scriptures! More than 40 authors over thousands of years… no one compared notes! Scripture is inspired by the breath of God!

Verse 45, And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Jesus opened their eyes! The Holy Spirit must open our eyes. Our mind does not possess the ability to comprehend what God ordained until God ordains our ability to comprehend! The 11 walked with Jesus and did not understand! So it is with many who claim to walk with Jesus today.

We can believe that Jesus was crucified… believe that the tomb was empty… but until Jesus is welcomed into the middle of our heart, until He becomes so real that we feel like we can touch Him, until our eyes are opened to true understanding of God’s plan, He will remain a distant spirit in our lives. The Jesus that passed through rock, passed through walls, passed through doors, has the ability to penetrate our hearts and change our lives today. Has He penetrated yours or is He still only a spirit to be marveled over? Is He old man Smithers or is He Christ the Risen King? Where does Jesus stand in your heart this morning?