

Luke 24:36-49  
Easter 3; Christian Education  
April 19 & 20, 2015

### Do we really trust the Bible?

*"Alien spaceship lands in its volcano headquarters."* There is video to prove it. As you watch the video, you clearly can see the lights of a UFO slow down and turn around and head right into the crater of a volcano in Mexico. Experts say that it is not a faked video at all. It is proof that this volcano is an alien base. At least that is what the British tabloid, *The Daily Star*, reads. (June 5, 2013)

The sad thing is that as ridiculous as that may sound to us, there are people in this world who believe those words. We would never believe something that sounds so impossible. Right? But there are people who would say the same thing about us. *How can you believe a book like the bible?* There are things in the pages of that book that seem to defy reason. A man named Adam listened to a talking snake, and the whole world gets condemned because of that act. God then promised to send his very own son to rescue the whole human race. Jonah spent three nights in the belly of a whale. A massive flood destroyed everyone in the world except 8 people in a big boat. There are countless stories and teachings that sound impossible. Do you trust it? **Do we really trust the Bible?** There is a lot that is riding on the answer to that simple question. Our eternity is at stake with that question. Even though every one of us here this morning might answer that question with the answer: *Of course, we do.* **But do we always trust it?**

If so, why are we so filled with fear at times? If we are filled with fear, we are not alone. Have you ever driven past the gold depository of the United States at Fort Knox? From the highway, there isn't much to look at. A single square shaped building, with a lot of green space in front of it, and a fence around it. Yet, I can only imagine how much security there is around that building. You are not going to get it. Perhaps, that is how the disciples felt on Easter Sunday evening. They were locked up tight. They were filled with fear. Even when Jesus stands with them behind those locked doors, their fears cause themselves to think irrationally. Luke tells us: **"They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost."** A ghost – really? But this isn't the first time that they have mistaken Jesus as a ghost. Remember the storm on the Sea of Galilee? They look at the waves and see someone walking on the water.

<sup>26</sup> **When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.**  
<sup>27</sup> **But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."** <sup>28</sup> **"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."** <sup>29</sup> **"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.** <sup>30</sup> **But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"**  
**(Matt 14:26-30)**

How many times are we like Peter or the disciples? It is fair to say that everyone here this morning has fears. Children may fear the monsters under the bed. Parents fear for their children as they grow up in a world that is increasingly filled with dangers. I can't imagine how some parents must fear for the lives of their children in the city of Milwaukee, for example. Retirees fear that they may not have enough income for the future. We fear financial challenges in many different aspects of our lives. Our whole life is filled with fears. We know we shouldn't. We know the words that God says to us in the Bible.

**Do we really trust the Bible?** *If so, then why do we have trouble giving the Bible credibility?* Think of all the different people that we trust in our lives. We trust the news anchor on the TV stations that we watch. The story that they speak about must be true. Why wouldn't it be true? People trust their newspapers. They trust their fellow workers. They trust their parents. They trust in their abilities. They trust in their money. There are some that will believe almost anything that they see on the internet. After all, why would it not be true? Yet, it seems that when it comes to the Bible, then we become a little more hesitant to believe everything found on the pages of the Bible. If God says it, we wonder about it. The Bible doesn't have a credibility problem, we sometimes have a believing problem.

Who do you trust? Why or why not? We trust people who have a "track record" of telling us the truth. We trust people who have demonstrated that they can get the task done. How much more of a "track record" does Jesus has? He

needed to remind his disciples of that. **"This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."** Jesus has never lied. He did everything that God had said that he was going to do. Every promise and prophecy in the Bible was fulfilled. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection had been predicted in a clear, distinct, unmistakable terms starting in Genesis and ending in Malachi. It was predicted. It was planned. It happened. The whole Old Testament is about Jesus! Do we always really trust every word found in those pages? Or do we focus on ourselves instead of relying on our God?

**Do we really trust the Bible?** If so, why do we find it so difficult in being witnesses about Jesus? Those hours that followed Jesus' crucifixion should have been hours of anticipation. The disciples should have been camped out at the tomb waiting for Jesus to come out kind of like the people who campout waiting for Brewers tickets for opening day or for that great Black Friday deal. They should have been Jesus' witnesses, telling others not to fear, because we have seen Jesus do some pretty amazing things. It's coming! Just wait and see. Instead they are alone, hoping that the world would forget about them as well. At that moment in time, they were afraid to be Jesus' witness. But things were about to change. **"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."**

Think of how many times we suffer because we don't take God's Word to heart. That's where Christian Education comes in. You see, Christian education is more pre-school, grade school, High School, College and even a Seminary. Yes, those may be workshops of the Holy Spirit. Christian Education is about teaching people to trust Jesus and His Word. It is setting aside the fears in our lives and trusting in every single word that God gives. It is about being a witness to the world of all the things that God has done for us. It starts in baptism (as we have seen again today) and it ends when we breathe our last breath on this earth. It's a trusting thing. It is a trusting thing that we can only do with God's help.

There are a lot of crazy things that people believe in today. May we always believe in God's Word. May we trust everyone word found in the bible. Amen.