

APR 7

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ECLIPSE

Luke 24:36-49

Why are we fascinated by something like a total solar eclipse? Perhaps we long to experience wonder and awe, to see something we've never witnessed before. According to Luke's Gospel, just before Jesus died on the cross, the whole earth became dark for 3 hours. An eclipse? Three days later, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, likely still coming to grips with the darkness of Jesus' death. There Jesus appeared to them, inviting them to share the Good News, the miracle of His resurrection, to eclipse their fear.

Jesus invites us to share the Good News starting right where we are.

Monday	Read Mark 16:17-18. What signs and wonders help you to grasp the goodness of God and invite you to share it with others?
Tuesday	Read Matthew 11:2-6. How can we respond to doubts or questions about what God does or doesn't do?
Wednesday	Read 2 Kings 20:1-6. What do individual healing stories reveal about God's power and promise to restore?
Thursday	Read Luke 24:28-35. Like the two disciples' recognition of Jesus in the breaking of bread, how do you recognize Jesus' restorative power in your daily life?
Friday	Read Luke 24:36-43. Like the disciples, what fears and doubts do you have?
Saturday	Read Luke 24:44-49. What does it mean to you to be a "witness" for Jesus?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. What are you excited about? What experiences in your life, the church, and the community fill you with wonder at possibility?
2. Pastor Carolyn said that sharing the Good News can sometimes cause feelings of anxiety. What feelings do you experience around sharing the Gospel message? How can you overcome feelings of fear or uncertainty?
3. What worries or concerns do you need Jesus to "eclipse" in your life right now?
4. Where are some places, right where you are, that are primed to share the redemptive hope, grace, and love found in the Good News?

FaithFit Challenge:

As a first step in sharing the Good News where you are, make a list of all the places you go in an average week and the communities you are a part of. In a time of prayer, ask God to begin to show you ways that you can be a witness in these daily patterns of your life.