

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**  
**MAY 19, 2022**

As Ascension Day approaches (May 26) we will again visit specific actions of Jesus with people. In the meantime, we can only wonder what Jesus was about during those forty days. We do read that John recorded (John 21:25) “and there are also many other things which Jesus did which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.”

It would be hard to believe that Jesus would not have been doing many of the things that He had done before his crucifixion. His physical appearances to those who would have recognized Him were important to put to rest the rumors that his body had been stolen away and that He really had not been resurrected. It was important that many people see Him alive if the disciples were to have an opportunity to fulfill his mission for coming to earth. Unless many saw Jesus alive the disciples would never have been thought to be anything but delusional. With that thought in mind, it is important to remember that delusions are individual and very personal, not the function of groups.

Among the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees believed in life after death; the Sadducees did not believe in life after death. Wouldn't it have been interesting to overhear the conversation of the Sadducees and the Pharisees after they had seen and perhaps spoken with the risen Christ.

As we await the day of the Ascension, let us enter into daily prayer for ourselves that we will not falter in our faithfulness. Let us also enter into daily prayer for this world for which Jesus sacrificed his life that all might have eternal and abundant life. There are so many people whose lives are filled with the tragedy of sickness and death and injustice and poverty that is not of their own making. During these days let us prepare ourselves to also be change agents in that part of the world in which we live. Let us all be heroes of the faith.

*Lord, we pray for a faith that grounds us in You; for courage to speak your name to others. Amen. Pastor Louise*