



2022 ELCA
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
August 8-12, 2022
Columbus, Ohio



ELCA Churchwide Assembly Bible Study Guide: Sally Azar, July 17, 2022

Devotional Presenter on Luke 24:13-35. The Walk to Emaus

Embodiment: Could it be Physical or Spiritual?

Appearance of Jesus – Physical Appearance is what we are talking about. In an interreligious context, the Physical Appearance is what is not comprehended, especially in the Muslim context in which it is always asked about.

The question is about the continuous Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Land. Is it still there? People from all around the world come to Palestine/Israel to see the Holy Land. People bring different ornaments, pictures, jewelry to be blessed in the places Jesus was, as his essence is still there, making everything else HOLY.

What makes a land Holy? After over two thousand years, with billions of people having been there, is there still an essence of Jesus somewhere around? And if not, did the Holiness fade away? Does it matter? And then the bigger question is why is our Land called the Holy Land? What defines Holiness? In the past years of my studies, I have always wondered and researched, what makes a place Holy. It always got to me just saying that only part of the world is Holy. What about the rest of the world?

The land where Jesus appeared, the place everyone calls Holy. A place that I don't see Holy with everything going on there, anymore. A place where peace and justice should be there, sadly it is not.

The Appearance of Jesus started probably there, but through his disciples, continuing to all of us today, his "Holiness" got distributed all around the world, therefore his Presence as well as his Essence is all around the world. Making the whole world Holy.

This Holiness of the world gives all of us Palestinians hope. People visiting, and seeing what going on, distributing the word. This hope we Palestinians have, is through you and everyone around the world, as we all embody the Holiness of God.

Questions:

- What does Holiness mean? Is there a limit or is it limitless?
- Embodiment of Holiness in each one of us, what spark is it in the person next to you?
 - (Compliments are always appreciated)
- What gives me and you hope in troublesome days like these?