

Sunday, April 16, 2023
Guest Pastor Hilary Eash
"Unknowingly Walking With Jesus"

Scripture Reading LUKE 24:13-35 (NIV)

“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”

Opening Reflection Question: Has there been a time in your life when God felt so far away but — when you reflect back — you see God was with you the entire time?

Passage Context: Book: Luke (Luke is Part One of a letter to Theophilus detailing the beginnings of Christianity. “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.” Acts 1:1-2 NIV)

Chapter: Luke 24 begins the morning of Christ's resurrection and ends with Jesus's ascension and promise of a Helper. In the middle of the chapter, Luke zooms in on 3 specific eye witness accounts of a resurrected Jesus: The women at the Tomb in the morning, 2 men walking to Emmaus in the afternoon, and finally the disciples in the evening.

Passage Outline:

1. 2 men who have lost hope are walking to Emmaus (a place of victory for the Israelites)
 - o 1 week prior, Jesus had entered Jerusalem triumphantly.
 - o Jesus had performed many signs and wonders...how could he not be God's promised Messiah to deliver the Jews?
2. A new person (whom the reader is told is Jesus but the men don't know) joins them.
 - o Quote: "When two saints are talking together, Jesus is very likely to come and make the third one in the company. Talk of him, and you will soon talk with him." (Charles Spurgeon)
3. They talk together about what the Prophets have said about the Messiah.
 - o Slow of Heart (Slow to Believe)
 - o Unbelief born out of Loneliness (feeling like God is absent)
 - o Combatting Unbelief
 - i. Believe in the Gospel
 - ii. Wait on Jesus
 - iii. Remember God's Faithfulness
4. They reach their destination in the evening and the men invite the "Stranger" to join them for dinner before he travels on.
5. The Stranger is revealed to be the resurrected Jesus **as** he breaks bread after praying. 6. Once Jesus disappears, the men run back to tell the disciples in Jerusalem. (Hope restored)

Closing Reflection Question: Are there areas in your life where you struggle with unbelief? What are ways you have witnessed God's faithfulness?

God's Promise to us: "He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure." Isaiah 33:6 NIV