

## ***The Road To Emmaus -- Luke 24:13-35***

**Intro:** Were you here last week? Did you see the crosses up front as the people came forward and placed flowers on or around them? Did you see the transformation and feel chills up and down your spine? Or did you miss Easter? If you missed Easter, you aren't alone. People have missed Easter for centuries. In fact, some people missed the first one.

### **I. Despair on Resurrection Day**

- A.** Luke 24:13-35 (read all). This is barely mentioned in Mark. Matthew and John leave the account out entirely. Some scholars are convinced the second disciple is Luke, but others demur.
- B.** What is certain is that these two were in despair and confusion, depressed and broken – on resurrection day!
- C.** Augustine said it this way: “They were so disturbed when they saw him hanging on the cross that they forgot his teaching, did not look for his resurrection, and failed to keep his promises in mind.” (Sermon 235:1)
- D.** For some people, festival days can be miserable days. Periods of celebration for some people are always times of depression for others. In the reading of resurrection narrative in the gospels we find this constant mix of joy and sadness, of celebration and despair.
- E.** Every year, Easter comes. And every year, some people miss it.
  - 1.** I don't mean that you were out of worship last week. Some people are in worship and see the joy around them but feel no joy within them.
  - 2.** Maybe you heard the hosannas and hallelujahs around you, but they didn't resonate within you. Maybe you said along with Nikos Kazantakis “God forgive me. This year, I have not felt Christ rise.”
  - 3.** So we arrive at the walk to Emmaus... and find that Jesus understands. He cares for the pilgrims who missed Easter.

## **II. Beginning With the Scriptures**

- A.** When God asked Adam in Genesis chapter 3, “Where are you?” the question wasn’t about geography; it was about his spiritual situation.
- B.** Jesus said these two men were foolish and slow to understand. Why? Because they had not accepted the scriptures; scriptures that state the Messiah had to suffer.
  - 1.** The scribes and teachers of the law commonly explained these passages away.
  - 2.** The crucifixion was the complete and final devastation of their hope. They had traveled a road to freedom only to find it was a dead end.
  - 3.** How did they miss Easter? Because they missed the Word, the story of God. They had missed it because they had explained away scripture rather than reading and believing it.
- C.** Jesus’ corrective to this was to lead them through the scriptures and show that they positively stated that the Messiah had to suffer these things before his glory could be seen. Perhaps he used these passages.
  - 1.** The promise to Eve (Genesis 3:15)
  - 2.** The promise to Abraham (Genesis 22:18)
  - 3.** The Paschal lamb (Exodus 12)
  - 4.** The Scapegoat (Leviticus 16:1-34)
  - 5.** The greater prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15)
  - 6.** The star and scepter (Numbers 24:17)
  - 7.** Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
  - 8.** Unto us a child is born (Isaiah 9:6)
  - 9.** The Good Shepherd (Isaiah 40:10,11)
  - 10.** The meek sufferer (Isaiah 50:6)
  - 11.** He who bore our griefs (Isaiah 53:4,5)
  - 12.** The Heir of David (Ezekiel 34:23)
  - 13.** The Ruler born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
  - 14.** The Branch (Zechariah 6:12)
  - 15.** The lowly King (Zechariah 9:9)
  - 16.** The pierced victim (Zechariah 12:10)
  - 17.** The smitten shepherd (Zechariah 13:7)
  - 18.** The Messenger of the Covenant (Malachi 3:1)
  - 19.** The Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2)

- D. They needed to know the scriptures. That would restore their hope even in the face of a raised cross and a crucified Messiah.

### **III. The God of the Weary**

- A.** Notice this: Jesus appears to these two men even though they missed Easter. Perhaps he appeared to them BECAUSE they missed it. When we go through scripture we see that those who are lost are often approached by God. And, like these men, they usually do not recognize that God is right beside them; the risen Lord is near them.
1. The presence of Christ among us does not depend upon the quality of our understanding of Christ. He appears in the midst of people not even looking for Him.
  2. He appeared to a woman who intended to anoint his dead body. (What are you looking for?) He appeared to a rejected woman at a well. He appeared to a widow burying her only son.
  3. He walked along a shoreline and watched people fish. He traveled along a dusty road with two strangers. He was confused for a gardener or cemetery worker.
  4. Today he also appears among us. He comes at meal times, in our work, in our play. He comes in hospital rooms, offices, bedrooms, clinics and sanctuaries.
- B.** When he approaches, he helps us see where we are and who we are. That was the point of the question to Adam and Eve in the garden. Where are you? To the men on the road to Emmaus, he showed them where they were and why.
- C.** Adam and Eve lost God when they took their eyes off him, took their hearts away from him, and ate the forbidden fruit.
1. Forbidden fruit is all around us. It is beautiful, looks like it would be good, and the world teams up to call us to it.
  2. They never place beside an ad for a movie, iPod, computer game or CD: Warning: putting your time here may keep you from giving your time to scripture, prayer, and fellowship. This item might make you miss Easter.
- D.** In contrast to this – in Luke 24, Jesus is invited in (or he would have walked on). And he reveals himself in the breaking of the bread. Instead of a meal taking us away from Jesus, this meal brings us home to him.

- E.** In our fellowship, we break the bread every week. Every week is Easter. Every day is Easter. And in our prayers, fellowship, study and the Lord's Table we meet him.
- F.** And if we miss him – He seeks us out, comes alongside us – even if we don't recognize him – and leads us home.