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**Questions Jesus asked Part 6**  
**Why Do Doubts Rise in Your Minds**  
**Pastor Ted Cunningham**

Last year, a lady approached me. It was very crowded when she approached me. She approached me and started talking about my father-in-Law, Denny, and just the impact that he made on her life. She began to tell me that he was the reason that she came back to faith, came back to the church. She went on and on about this. She doesn't live around here. I think she is in Springfield or Ozark now.

At the end of sharing with me about Denny, she said, "so you can imagine how sad I was to hear that he had passed away. Denny was at our 8:15 gathering this morning, alive and well. I was kind of shocked when she said it to me and then someone distracted her and she started to talk to someone else and I started talking to someone else.

I get home and I tell my wife, I go you're not going to believe it. this lady was so honoring of your father today and just how boldly he proclaims the name of Jesus and how it inspired her and she came back to church because of it. Then she said how sad she was to hear that he had passed away. and Amy laughs and she asked, what did she say when you told her he was alive? I said that's the funny part of this whole story. I didn't get around to it. She said, "What?!" I go, yeah, everything was happening so fast. I got distracted and she goes; you have to call her and tell her that he is alive. I said, "Wouldn't be hilarious if we have your dad call her. She answers the phone and he say I'm Alive!! And honestly, Denny was game for this today, but it was... kind of one of the reasons... We are going to have a lot of people on campus today. I don't know if I'm going to find her. be able to catch her. I didn't remember her name, but I would know

what she looks like. I was waiting for her to come in. I was going to see if she would join us for Easter, sit down and we would have Denny sit in the seat right behind her. and tap her on the shoulder.

All of that is taking us into Luke 24 today. I love this passage of scripture because we get these three scenes on Sunday, on the day Jesus is raised from the dead. We are not going to have time to cover all of them, but if you have your bibles, I want you to turn there because we are going to be covering a lot of text today. If you are turning there, I just want to say we celebrate 24 years today. it's a crowded day; it's a busy day. There are seekers across our campus and online. There are doubters here. There are people here because this is the thing you do in America on Easter and you're going to go to Cracker Barrel with family after this.

We have new believers in the room who are trying to understand and figure it all out. We have a lot of committed believers. Often, during the week, in preparing for a message, I prepare the text, I pray over it, but this week, I found myself praying more for the people that would be on campus and the people that would be gathered here with us, watching with us online. And here are my three prayers as we jump unto part 6.

Some of you in here, across campus, online, you've been a part of every Easter now for 24 years. For some of you, this is your very first Easter at Woodland Hills and we say welcome. We are glad that you are here.

And here have been my three prayers as we jump into Part 6 of questions Jesus asked, and the question today *why do doubts rise in your mind*. I've been praying this prayer, and I don't know where this hits you today but first and foremost, I've been praying that eyes would be open to Jesus, eyes would be open to Christ. That you would see "Christ and understand what he's done for you.

Taking you all the way ack to Genesis 3, remember Satan's greatest lie was to tell them their eyes would be open to themselves. They would become like God. And some of you, you eyes are open to you, your truth, your world. there's nothing about your life that reflects Christ and the resurrected Jesus and the power of the resurrection in your life. And that's my prayer today is that your eyes would be open, not to you and to your truth, but to the truth of the gospel and what Christ has done that you would see Jesus today.

But more than that, that hearts would be burning for Christ when you leave campus today.

I'm so grateful for the orchestra with Matt on the tubular bells over there over there today. All of this is stirring. It stirs emotions. There is nothing wrong with emotions being stirred in worship because that's what music does. Music stirs us. It should stir our affection for Christ and draw us closer to Christ. So, my prayer is that your eyes would be open, hearts burning for Christ, and that minds would be open to the scripture today. And to understand the important events that took place and all that was taking place on this day. That you would understand that you are witnesses to it and to go out and proclaim the good news of Jesus to others.

Let me give you a summary because I can't give you the whole passage today. Luke 24 starts early Sunday morning the day Jesus rose from the dead. The women go to anoint his body, and they find that the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, Jesus is not there. Two men in cloths that the bible describes as gleaming like lightning say to them, why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here. He is risen.

They go tell the 11 disciples and many more this news, but those they told did not believe the women because it sounded like nonsense. But Peter ran to the tombs to investigate. He found the empty tomb and wondered what had happened.

Now, we are going to pick up in Luke 24: 13 on the road to Amaos, the only gospel that shares this scene or this account is Luke. We read in Verse 13, ***now that same day...*** so this is Sunday, two of them, two disciples of Jesus, not two of the eleven, but two others that had followed Jesus were going to a village called Amaos. ***About seven miles from Jerusalem...*** please keep that detail in your mind, it's very important as we go through this story. ***They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.***

Now we just came out of Holy Week. It started last Sunday with the triumphal entry. Jesus enters the city to shouts of Hosanna. By the end of the week, we're getting into betrayal, denial, suffering, beatings, and the brutal crucifixion of our Lord and Savioe Jesus Christ. They are discussing all of these things.

We reflect on them and talk about them and preach and teach them two thousand years later, but they have just lived it. They have just walked through it. they are discussing all of these things

Verse 15: ***As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked among them.***

*And Verse 16 – very important – they weren't unable to recognize him, they were kept from recognizing him. They were kept from recognizing him and I love Verse 17. **Jesus asked them, What are you discussing together as you walk along.***

This stops them dead in their tracks and that's what the bible says. ***They stood still, their face downcast. And then 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.***

Let me put this in our language for us – Where have you been? Have you not heard what's been going on in Jerusalem these past few days? It's been what everyone is talking about. But Jesus responds with another question and this is what I love about this series. Jesus asked a lot of questions in his teaching. He says, ***What things? Tell me.*** And I think this is the tone... I always try to read the bible with tone about Jesus of Nazareth. Where have you been. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests handed him over to be sentenced to death and they crucified him.

Verse 21 is so important for us today. we had hope that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Think about that for just a moment. He is the one that is going to redeem Israel. But what many in that were talking about when Jesus came into the city, think about it. They were looking for someone to save them politically. They were looking for someone to save them from Rome.

Let me tell you, they have a far greater need than salvation from Rome. They need salvation from their sin and the penalty that comes with sin which is death. They need salvation from sin, death, Hell. Yes, he has come to Redeem Israel, and that really takes us to a place... think about it. Many people will be in churches all over the country and all over the world today. And they are not necessarily showing up for salvation, they are showing up for help.

They are suffering in some way and they want help, but not necessarily a savior. They want something to change about their circumstances, but maybe they are not looking for salvation. That maybe you today, you're a sufferer wanting help, when in fact, you are really a sinner in need of a savior. And let me tell you, the problems are real, I get it. some of you have financial crisis, you don't know how that bill is going to get paid this week or you have a family crisis going on right now, some of you are in a marriage crisis right now. Some of you don't like what's going on in the world and you want to see major things change in the world.

That is all important and real stuff, but beyond all of that is your most important need and it's a need for a Savior.

So, when they say, we were actually hopping he would, Jesus among them.... Remember at this point, they don't know this is Jesus. I just have to wonder as the story progresses, and what is more, they said, it is the third day since all of this took place Then Jesus told the women that went this morning and found the tomb empty that they came back and told us and some of our companions. Some of our companions went to the tomb to investigate for themselves, but they, themselves did not find Jesus.

Then the Bible says again... they still don't recognize it's Jesus ***Jesus shares with them the scriptures and what the scriptures say about him from Moses all the way through the profits.*** That's important to understand because they wouldn't have had time for conversations. I don't know what your mile pace is. Mine is 18 minutes. That's a lie. It's 20 minutes. But my watch will tell me when I'm walking... It's anywhere between 19 and 20 minutes.

So, they are on this journey. So, Jesus had time to explain things to them. He's explaining the scriptures to them about himself. The Bible says, Jesus joins them for the evening meal.

Pick up with me in Verse 30 on the screen. ***When he was at the table with them, they took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to hit them and their eyes were opened.***

The bible says ***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***  
***Then two of these disciples returned at once to Jerusalem. It's probably a 2-to-3-hour journey, most scholars believe. They found the 11 and many others assembled with them and proclaimed the resurrected Jesus. We have seen the Lord.***

And now we pick up where we get into the question of the morning. *Why do doubts rise in your mind.*

So, while they are discussing it, the two have come back there. They went to Amaos. I don't know if you know this but that's 14 miles. That's pretty good. Amy walks me in every city we visit about 12 – 14 miles. My feet are done at the end of day. They have had quite the journey. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them. Now they are back in Jerusalem, they are ***back in the room and he said to them, peace be with you.***

A few weeks ago, I installed a ring camera against my will. I'm not a big technology guy. I'm kind of worn out on it, but my son talked me into it. I bought this 60-dollar ring camera. I installed it because I feel like I should probably become head of neighborhood watch now that I've got it. I'm ready to do business. I had no idea when I installed this thing how much fun I was going to have with it, and how much joy it was going to bring to our marriage. How much joy it was going to bring to me in our marriage.

This thing is creepy. Does anybody have one of these? How many of you have a Ring camera and the new AI thing. I'm in Paduka, Kentucky last Saturday. I get an alert on my phone that says Woman descending stairs with dogs. And it's Amy taking the dog out. I hit the live button. The microphone and camera on these things is amazing. I hit the button and I'm like What are you doing on my property with them dogs. She jumps, said some things and I had to say Hey this microphone goes both ways. She looks back and she says knock it off and she keeps walking. A few days later, I get another alert. This is true. It says Woman ascending stairs with potted plant. Is this creepy. This is why I don't want this stupid thing. but now I love it. I hit the live button and I'm like what are you doing on my front porch.

Knock it off, Ted.

Hours of joy the last week or two with this thing. I haven't done this thing with the mail main or the prime guys, but you just wait.

Verse 37 - Jesus says ***Peace be with you.*** they were startled and frightened. I've seen it a couple of times this week, jump, thinking they saw a ghost. But make no mistake my friends, this is not a ghost, this is not an hallucination. This is the physically resurrected Jesus. The physical body of our Lord and Savior, fully resurrected. ***He said to them. Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your mind Look at my hands and feet. It is I myself, touch and see. A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.***

This is now in the third scene of this day. We started with the tomb in the first scene road to Amos in the second scene, now we are in the room with the disciples and many others. Jesus is showing them. We are getting to the moment where Jesus is like, I have already explained these things to you. before I died, I told you what was coming. I know there was confusion, there was doubt, I know there were some things you don't fully understand, but I am here. You saw me die. I am here right now. These are the scars of the brutal crucifixion.

So, my question today, and it's a question for many across campus. How many more easters do you need to believe in the resurrected Jesus. Easter is your day. You show up. This is a church day for you. you're committed to this day and yet you still do not believe. Wrestle with that question for just a moment. We continue in the text and I'll come back in just a moment

When he had said this to them, he showed them his hands and feet. They still did not believe it because of joy and amazement He asked them, do you have anything to eat here. They gave him a piece of broiled fish. It's been a long day. He took the fish and he ate it in their presence. He said to them, this is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything must be fulfilled that was written about me in the las of moses, the prophets, and the psalms. You have to get this.

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. He told them, this is what is written. ***The messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on***

***the third day. And repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I'm going to send you what my father has promised...*** And we pick this up in Acts when the Holy Spirit comes upon them in Acts, the day of Pentecost. They are going to be witnesses to the good news of Jesus, starting there in Jerusalem and then going to Judah, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. ***I'm going to send you what my father has promised but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on High.***

When your eyes are opened to Jesus and your hearts are burning for Christ and you understand the scriptures, you understand the gospel, you understand that you were created by God and for God. You understand that to have a relationship with God only comes through a relationship with Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the father except through him. And when you understand that and when you are saved and the Holy Spirit dwells within you, you are a witness to this to others. You share this good news with other people. Just as we've seen in this story time and time again, they go see the tomb is empty and they go tell other people. They have an encounter with Jesus; they meet him face to face on the road and at dinner. They come back and tell people. The Bible also says that Peter had seen Jesus earlier. Now he's in the room with them. When all of this takes place, you can't help but from within have a desire to share this with other people.

So, yes, for some in the room, across campus, and online today, the question is how many more easters do you need to repent of your sins to believe that Jesus is as raised from the dead, confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord. But for others, what more do we need to go and be bold proclaimers of this truth to family members, friends, co-workers, and the lost. How many more Easters do you need to follow the resurrected Jesus. Think about campus today. There are going to be very few people here that are going to need convincing that the resurrection took place. Most will believe. We've done the apologetics messages, we've clearly explained how Jesus yes, died on the cross, raised from the dead, but there are going to be fewer that need that convincing, but there will be many who have placed faith in Christ but yet it is still about them. It's still about their life and living life for them, but Jesus clearly here tells all of those who have experienced this who have seen it hey stay here because in a little bit the Holy Spirit is going to descend

Today, my prayer is what Paul said in Philippians 3:10 – to know Christ and to know the power of his resurrection.

Some of you don't know the power. You have the hurt, you have the struggle, and you've fallen for this narrative in your life that you're too far gone or the situation is too far gone. Or it's been too far gone for too long so now it's I'm too far gone, and there's just no chance, it's too late.

If you believe in the resurrection of Jesus, you know the resurrection, you've placed faith in Jesus, and you believe in the power of the resurrection, there is no such thing as too far gone and there is not such thing as too late. We believe and we teach it around here. You are not too far gone ever, there is hope.

Ecclesiastes says, if you are among the living, meaning you are breathing today, you have hope. Some of you believe your kids are too far gone. You're watching them live like hellions in the world, shaking your head every time you hear a story or every time you get a call from jail, you're just shaking your head going there is no hope. Your kids are not too far gone. There is hope.

Some of you are like there is nothing left for my marriage. We believe the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that can raise your dead marriage.

Some of you have given up on your mental health. You've visited every single therapist and specialist you can find, and you think *there is no hope, I'm going to deal with this anxiety forever*. We believe you are not too far gone in your mental health. We believe in the power of the resurrected Jesus. On your worst day you are not too far gone. We sang it today. I was thinking about the members of our church. I hugged one of them this morning in his 80's. He doesn't have a lot of time left on the clock. I saw another one out eating this week. Not a lot of time left on the clock. They know their days are truly numbered. I shared the Ben Sass quote weeks ago. You can play a lot of basketball in the last 60 seconds. The buzzer went off on them in the fourth quarter, and they are living in overtime. We sang it today because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.

What choked me up this morning in worship when it says, when I finally fight life's final war with pain... You know we have people in our church right now that are fighting that final battle. The wicked thief of death. Because he lives, life is worth living. Just because he lives. You proclaimed it with your mouth today. so, you have a have a decision tom make this Easter. I'm going to encourage all of us to make a decision. Greg bettice one of our security team almost every time he sees me before I preach, he'll say Give 'em heaven. Some of you don't know why people are laughing at that. If you were here last week, this is what Gregg said. We had a great conversation. He was the first person I saw on campus this morning around 6:30. As I'm walking away, he said, like he always says, Give 'em heaven. I said Thanks Greg. I'm about 30 yards from him and he says, because you already gave them Hell last week, so let's give 'em some good stuff this week.

If you weren't here, I encourage you to go back and listen to that message because we talked about the cup that Jesus drank for you and me. the cup is God's wrath poured out on Jesus for you and for me. that's the cup that Jesus drank from. And there are some of you in here, to quote Spurgeon, that are hanging over the mouth of Hell by a single thread. He's quoting Jonathan Edwards with that line, and his message sinners in the hands of an angry God.

Edwards says you hang by a slender thread with the flames of divine wrath flashing about.

For those who have never placed faith in the resurrected Jesus, you need to know today you are dead in you sins and you are deserving of God's wrath, but Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath so you don't have to. He went to the cross, as we looked at good Friday this week, and it is only by God's grace, through his son Jesus Christ that you can be saved.

So, what I'm going to invite you to do, if you are thinking you are too far gone and your thinking it's too late, I'm going to encourage you and I'm going to give a very specific way. The bible says that we are supposed to believe this from the heart, confess it with our mouth. I'm going to invite you to bow your head with me as we close out our time today. I want to start by speaking to the one on campus, I believe to the many on campus who are hanging over Hell by a single thread. I'm going to pray and as I'm speaking out loud and I'm not going to pause for you to say it. I want you to just say it with me because this is really about what you are

committing to and the decision you are making. so say these words, believe these words. Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me. Today I repent of my sins and I declare with my mouth Jesus is Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead. The bible says that with the heart you believe and are justified and with the mouth you profess your faith and are saved, and today, I believe in my heart, and I profess with my mouth and I desire to be saved. Rescued from God's wrath, forgiven so that I can ultimately say my sins are forgiven, my life has purpose, and heaven is my home.

For the one who has made this decision, I want you today to ask the question, how many more Easters do you need to begin following. You understand that today we have 4 to 5 thousand people on campus and back next week to 3000 because many will be like It did it. What will it take to begin to follow Jesus. Not make yourself the center of your life, but to make Christ the center of your life.

For those who are believers across campus that today would be a day you do as all this was taking place on Sunday that you, as you have these experiences and these moments and these crisis in your life, that you would go and tell people the good news. What you've seen, what you've experienced, the burning in your heart for Christ.

Father, I am grateful for this day, I'm grateful for this church, I'm grateful for what you continue to do through woodland hills. I pray a blessing over this message as it goes out, that the scripture that goes out today is clear from the bible all that took place on this day that minds will be opened to it, that hearts would be burning and that minds and hearts and eyes open to the truth.

For the marriage that's dead and gone, breathe life, for the family, the child that it just seems like there is no hope, breathe life and call them by name. for the crisis that's in someone's life right now, that today they understand their greatest need is to be saved but that you continue to breath life in all of these circumstances, situation in our lives. That people would leave today with hope. They are not too far gone and it's not too late.

We pray all of this in the authority and the name of Jesus, and everyone agreed and said... Amen