

## Disappointed and Doubting People

Message 04 of the series, "Jesus Saves"

"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them all." 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

### I. Jesus came into the world to save sinners like the disappointed men on the road to Emmaus.

- a. Two of Jesus' followers gave up on Him because Jesus didn't do things the way they thought He should.

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. *We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel.*"

Luke 24:13-21 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We can trust that God loves us, and His ways are better than ours.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

"Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you." Psalm 37:3-5 (NLT)

- b. Two of Jesus' followers doubted Him because they didn't understand the Scriptures.

"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Spending time in God's Word will give us understanding of God's will and God's ways.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

- c. Two of Jesus' followers stopped doubting and believed when Jesus revealed Himself to them.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:28-36 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Jesus will reveal himself to us too if we seek him.

"Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

### II. Four reasons it matters that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter:

- a. When things seem hopeless, God's not finished.

"Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act." Psalm 37:7 (NLT)

- b. God can use even bad / painful / disappointing things for our good.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

- c. If Jesus is strong enough to overcome death, He is strong enough to overcome any problems we face.

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead...." Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

- d. We no longer need to fear dying.

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you."

Romans 8:11 (NLT)

### III. Jesus came into the world to save sinners like me.

"The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name." John 20:30-31 (NLT)

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:10 (NLT)

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### Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Share a disappointment you've experienced that later turned out to be a positive thing.
2. Why do you think some people become disappointed with God and walk away from church?
3. How would you describe to a new believer the importance of spending time in God's Word?
4. Read Titus 2:11-14. How does living a life devoted to God show itself in our everyday lives?
5. Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-16. In your opinion, what does it look like when a believer walks in this life by faith in God?
6. Read Luke 6:43-45 & Ephesians 5:15-20. What is the importance of the heart in our responses to circumstances and people in our lives? How does singing to the Lord transform the way you see your circumstances and opportunities?
7. Read Luke 24:25-27. Discuss the following list of ten prophecies fulfilled by Jesus at Easter. How did Jesus' followers fail to recognize him as the Messiah? Why do many people still refuse to recognize Jesus as the Messiah?

### Ten prophecies of the Messiah that were fulfilled by Jesus at Easter:

- The Messiah will ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:26, John 12:12-16)
- The Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 27:3-10)
- The Messiah will be deserted by his friends. (Zechariah 13:7, Matthew 26:31-35)
- The Messiah will be pierced, beaten and whipped. (Isaiah 53:5, Mark 15:15, John 19:34)
- The Messiah will remain silent before his accusers. (Isaiah 53:7-8, Mark 15:3-5, 12-14)
- The Messiah will be mocked and ridiculed. (Psalm 22:6-8, Matthew 27:39-43)
- People will cast lots for the Messiah's clothes. (Psalm 22:18, John 19:23-24)
- None of the Messiah's bones will be broken. (Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20, John 19:31-33)
- The Messiah will be buried in a rich man's grave. (Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 27:57-60)
- The Messiah will not rot in the grave. (Psalm 16:9-11, Matthew 28:1-7)