

The Resurrection

Message 5 of 5 in the series: "24 Hours That Changed History"

A. On the first Easter Sunday, two of Jesus' followers left Jerusalem discouraged and confused by everything that had happened to Jesus over the weekend.

"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.** This all happened three days ago. 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." Luke 24:13-24 (NLT)

1. "Messiah" = "Christ" = "anointed one". "So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the **Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David** from that day on." 1 Samuel 16:13a (NLT)
2. The Emmaus travelers had their hopes dashed by Jesus' crucifixion because they had false expectations of Jesus. Along with almost everyone else, they expected the Messiah to set up a victorious Jewish political kingdom like David's and defeat the Romans. But Jesus came to set up the Kingdom of God, defeat Satan, and free us from the tyranny of sin and death. "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and **only by dying could he break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he **set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.**" Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)
3. Because of the horrific circumstances surrounding Jesus' crucifixion, neither the Emmaus travelers nor the women who went to Jesus' tomb remembered what Jesus had said. "But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! **Remember what he told you back in Galilee**, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.' **Then they remembered that he had said this.** So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened... But **the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.**" Luke 24:1-11 (NLT)

Life Application: We must trust God's promises, NOT our own expectations. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; **do not depend on your own understanding.** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Life Application: We must remember God's goodness and His promises during adverse circumstances. "Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me." Psalm 103:2 (NLT)

B. Jesus explained the OT Scriptures to the Emmaus travelers so they could see that everything that had happened to Jesus occurred according to God's plan.

"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. 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?**' And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem." Luke 24:25-33a (NLT)

1. Jesus explained many OT prophecies that clearly pointed to His crucifixion and His resurrection. "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet **the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.**" Isaiah 53:5-6 (NLT) "For **you will not leave my soul among the dead** or allow your holy one to rot in the grave." Psalm 16:10 (NLT)
2. God still speaks through His Word and opens our eyes/causes our hearts to burn within us. "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)

C. Jesus appeared to the Emmaus travelers and the disciples on Easter Sunday evening so they would all believe that He really rose from the dead.

"There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, 'The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.' Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. **But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! 'Why are you frightened?' he asked. 'Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do.'** As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched. Then he said, 'When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, 'Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: "**There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.**" You are witnesses of all these things. And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until **the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.**" Luke 24:33b-49 (NLT)

1. The Bible records the disciples' struggles to believe in Jesus' resurrection in order to help us believe. "Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught." Luke 1:3-4 (NLT)
2. There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent and surrender their lives to Jesus. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.**" Romans 3:23-25a (NLT)
3. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives all who come to Him the power to live new lives. "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Read Luke 24:13-34. Why do you think Jesus asked the Emmaus travelers questions to which He already knew the answers?
2. Describe a time in your life when you felt like your heart was burning within you while somebody was explaining Scripture to you. What causes this? (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 55:10-11, Hebrews 4:12)

3. Discuss the following statements:
 - We must trust God's promises, NOT our own expectations. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - We must remember God's goodness and His promises during adverse circumstances. (Psalm 103:1-5)
 - The Bible records the disciples' struggles to believe in Jesus' resurrection in order to help us believe. (Luke 24:35-48, John 20:24-31)
 - There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent and surrender their lives to Jesus. (1 John 1:9, Romans 3:23-25)
 - Through the Holy Spirit, God gives all who come to Him the power to live new lives. (Philippians 2:13)
4. Look up Psalm 22:7-8 & 14-18, Isaiah 53:3-9, & Psalm 16:10. Why do you think Jesus' followers failed to recognize that these Scriptures were describing Jesus' crucifixion/resurrection until after He rose from the dead?
5. Is it possible for us to fail to recognize or forget things Jesus clearly said when circumstances are difficult and/or God doesn't do things the way we think He should? (Matthew 5:43-48, 18:21-35, & 20:20-29)