

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 29TH-31ST, 2024 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

THE 3RD DAY (LUKE 24:1-12)

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

The lives of Jesus' followers had come to a discouraging halt. They thought everything they had put their faith in had been taken.

- Three women went to Jesus' tomb after the Sabbath to complete the burial process, but to their shock, His burial stone had been moved, and His body was gone.

"WHILE THEY WERE PERPLEXED..."

The thought of someone desecrating Jesus' body after His brutal death deeply troubled the women. In their confusion, "two men stood by them in dazzling clothes," and they bowed down "terrified."

- **We will have perplexing situations, but if we're looking for Jesus, clarity will come.**

SEARCHING FOR LIFE IN GRAVEYARDS

"Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" was more than a reference to the resurrection, it was a challenge to **our misguided pursuits of what it means to be alive.**

- **When we try to find life in anything other than the Giver of Life (Psalm 36:9), we're searching in vain.**

"HE IS NOT HERE, BUT HE HAS RISEN!"

Jesus' resurrection was more the key than His death. Good people can give their lives to physically save others, but **the Son of God gave His life for the salvation of our souls.**

- **He was also raised from the grave so we could receive His Spirit and be spiritually and eternally resurrected.**

THEN "THEY REMEMBERED HIS WORDS"

The women were reminded of Jesus' predictions, but the other disciples were still hopeless and fearful because they had forgotten.

- **We gravitate towards anxiety and despair if we haven't heard the gospel or if we have forgotten it because of the distractions and pitfalls of life.**

"PETER, HOWEVER, GOT UP AND RAN"

When the women reported what they had seen, most of the disciples thought it "seemed like nonsense," and they didn't believe. On the other hand, Peter had just recently **sinned** (Luke 22) and felt **extreme shame and guilt.**

- **The hope of redemption and restoration are great motivators for seeking answers!**

WALKING (LUKE 24:13-27)

"NOW THAT SAME DAY..."

We flash over to two disciples walking down the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, talking about what had happened to Jesus. While they were "discussing and arguing, Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them."

- The argument indicated that Jesus' followers disagreed about the women's report.

WHATCHA TALKING ABOUT?

One has to love the casual nature in which Jesus strolls up to the men and joins the conversation. Interestingly, He prevented them from recognizing Who He was and kind of frustrates them with His questions.

- One of the men, Cleopas, sarcastically answers Him, but Jesus just plays along.

"BUT WE WERE HOPING HE WAS THE ONE..."

After asking "What things?" they were talking about, they told Jesus about their hope in Him as the Messiah, about the trial and crucifixion, and about the claim of His resurrection.

- Their tone must have been both sad and a little angry because they felt like their hope of deliverance had been lost.

LOOK AT WHAT THIS SCENE ALREADY BRINGS UP

In this story we learn a little about the nature of God. God is not only the Creator of all things with power over death, but He also has a casual/relational side with a hint of humor.

- We also get a **fantastic view of the "road" that we call life; this path of struggles, victories, confusion, and a need for clarity.**

LET ME EXPLAIN (VS. 25-27)

After listening for a bit, we sense frustration from Jesus because they had missed the evidence that had always been in front of them.

- **Seeing is not believing. Believing is seeing. The evidence of God, salvation, change, and clarity isn't hidden, but we must want to see it.**

RECOGNITION (LUKE 24:28-35)

INVITING JESUS TO TALK SOME MORE

Jesus "gave the impression" He was leaving the conversation just as it was getting good, but the two men wouldn't have it. So, they "urged Him" to stay, eat, and continue the conversation.

- The men invited Jesus in, but He acted as the host by blessing, breaking, and distributing the bread.

WE ARE NOW SEEING THE ROAD TO RECOGNITION

- First, the men were **inquisitive** about a Savior. Secondly, even though they were confused, they **allowed Jesus' words to challenge them.** Thirdly, they intentionally spent time getting to know Him. Lastly, they **recognized Jesus as the Savior to Whom they should devote their lives.**

"WEREN'T OUR HEARTS BURNING..."

After they **positioned themselves to hear truth**, "their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight."

- Sometimes, our selfishness, grief, or distractions blind us from truth, but **if we will be humble and position ourselves to learn, we will discover Christ** (Matthew 7:7-8).

"TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE ROAD"

Jesus "disappeared" because **true faith depends on more than just the physical. It depends on spiritual presence and sight.**

- In their excitement, they find the 11 to share **their story that started with a conversation on a road and led to recognition of and communion with God.**

IT STARTED WITH A ROAD

- Genesis 3:8 alludes to the fact that God literally walked with Adam and Eve daily. **God created us not out of need, but of a desire to walk with us.**
- Unfortunately, we allowed (and still do) sin to fracture the intimacy between us and our Creator. But, God had a plan to correct this.

THE PLAN

- The correction mechanism for salvation, personal restoration, and a relationship with our Creator is Jesus and His death and resurrection.
- If we will be **humble, objectively seek truth, and choose to walk the road of life with Jesus**, we will experience **clarity, change, and hope.**

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE ROAD

- From a garden path, to a road after the resurrection, to a main street in heaven (Revelation 21). **The point has always been the conversation on the road!**
- If we travel with Christ now, we inherit an eternity in perfection and the honor of conversing with God forever!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO WALK THE ROAD

- We all fail, have anxious moments, times of doubt, and temptations. **The journey with Jesus begins in imperfection but ends in security and perfection.**
- As we travel with Christ we **mature and change** to be more like Him. In this, **we find fulfillment, joy, peace, and contentment.**

IT IS A QUESTION OF WHAT WE WANT

- We're all on a road. The question is to what destination are we traveling toward and is our current road working?
- What do we truly desire?
- Are we willing to walk (search and put forth effort)? Are we willing to listen and respond?
- What brought you here?