

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

I had asked Mary a few weeks ago for any notes or tapes from Mike's teaching on the Resurrection. She came through for me with a bunch of sermons from Luke. As I read them I realized that the Road to Emmaus was the next passage we were to cover this morning. And one of the sermons Mary gave me was from our text.

It was preached on November 10, 1986. That is very close to 30 years ago. As I read these sermons I was reminded of what an exceptional gift he had. And I cannot help believing that God wants me to use what I read for your benefit this morning. I will be quoting him a lot this morning and next week. We even have 8 points, three of which I will cover this week and 5 next week.

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We will start with point 1 here.

1- Jesus reveals Himself in the everyday routine

Emmaus was a town 7 miles believed to be northwest of Jerusalem. These two followers were likely in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They appear to have good knowledge of what was happening with the disciples, so these guys were probably well acquainted with Christ and His disciples. They were...followers. They happened to be in town when all of the unusual stuff started happening. This is the fourth day after Christ's crucifixion. These guys were in the same state as most of the other disciples. We find out later that they were highly disappointed because they expected that Christ would redeem Israel. They hoped He would do the work of the Messiah. But instead He was killed.

So these guys were walking home. Maybe they had to go to work the next day. Maybe they took off all the time they could. They couldn't stay around to find out what would happen.

Men and women, have you ever felt like your obligations are keeping you from the important things of God? Have you felt like going to work or watching your kids is keeping you from doing the really important stuff? This text assures us that if we are doing the jobs God wants us to do, His access to us is not limited. He will get us the information or help He wants us to have. It may not be through the channels we prefer. But He will get it to us.

So essentially, these two guys are probably walking home so they can continue working. They are walking on a dusty road, putting one foot in front of the other in an attempt to get where they are going. Does any of that strike you as being exciting? Is it dramatic? Is it out of the ordinary? It would be like us driving to Hagerstown for work. Mundane.

It is in that very activity that Christ shows up. Now look at Him and His entrance. Here is the resurrected Son of God coming to commune with some ordinary humans in their day to day tasks. And what does Jesus do? Does He use trumpets to announce His presence? Does He show off His glory in blinding light?

He certainly could have. And, for sure, He deserved to do so if He wanted to. No. He shows up in the mundane with no spiritual indication of any difference.

And what is the point? That is where He shows up in our lives too.

Mike says, **“The point is that Jesus Christ is Lord of everyday real life lived right here on planet earth’s dirt. He is Lord of the ordinary and mundane.”**

That is where we live. That is where we struggle. We face our challenges there. We come unglued there. And we need God’s inclusion there. We need Jesus there. We need His word there. The thing is, CHRIST IS THERE. We just need to believe it. That is the amazing truth of the Resurrection. Jesus is with us. His Holy Spirit is here pointing us to all truth. His presence is with every believer. He is with us when we fix computers or do laundry or move rocks or feed kids. He is there. And when we believe it, we will find our lives different as a result of that belief.

What is happening in our mundane day to day that we would prefer Jesus not to see? Would we do it if He were standing there? If not, it stands to reason that we don’t really believe He is there now. It is a doctrine, but not a conviction. **If we would do nothing today but to change our lives to reflect a true belief that Jesus is with us 24 hours per day, our lives would be radically changed.** If we would make 2017 as the year we believed Christ is with us, 2017 would be a radically different year for us. Christ is there in the mundane.

Mike quoted this poem.

Sometimes when everything goes wrong
When days are short and nights are long
And when washday brings so dull a sky
That not a single thing will dry
When the kitchen chimney smokes
When there’s nothing so difficult as folks
When friends deplore my faded youth
And when the baby cuts a tooth
When John the baby laughs but one
Clings around my skirts till day is done
And good natured Jane is glum
And the butcher forgets to come
Sometimes I say on days like these
I get a sudden gleam of bliss
Not on some sunny day of ease He’ll come
But on a day that’s just like this.
Fay Ichbon

It is on common ordinary days we are to grow in our walk with God. And it will be on a day just like this that He will return in all His splendor. And up until that point it will be a day just like any other.

¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?"

2- Jesus enjoys a sense of humor

The word for restrain means "to be master of" "to get possession of" "to take hold of or seize". This tells us all we need to know. Christ intentionally took possession of and controlled how these two men would see Christ. And Christ saw to it that these men would have no idea who He was.

Now, did Christ attempt to get **any information** from these men that He could only gain if **they did not know Him**? No

Did he **give them information** that He could not have given them if they knew who He was? No

Did He want to keep it a secret that He was roaming about on the planet still? No
What motive explains His action?

The only one that makes any sense is that Christ was having a little fun. And no wonder.

Think of the enormous pressure Christ had been under for the last three years of His life. Then consider this last 6 months. Then the last week. The pressure accumulated to the point He was sweating blood. That is severe anxiety. We sometimes want to complain that the Christian life is harder than we want it to be. Well just look at our Master. Consider how hard it was for Him?

But what state is Christ in now? Remember how on the Cross Christ said it was finished? Well, what He had to do, the hard work of our salvation for Christ was completed. The rest of the heavy lifting had to be done by the Father. Christ had to be resurrected. And that was now completed. The only thing Christ had left to do was to reveal Himself to over 500 people. And these were all His friends as far as we know.

Think about that. How hard could that be? How hard would it be showing up in the mundane places and saying Hi. How'r ya doing? Remember. That is about what he said to the women on the road. He was showing up to surprise people who think He is dead. This had to be incredible fun. And you could have them recognize you whenever you felt like it. You could show up in the middle of groups inside of locked doors. You could show up on the regular highways and byways of people's lives.

What Christ shows us in this story is that **humor is part of heaven**, it is part of the Godhead. It is just one more good thing created by God. Christ enjoyed it as much as the next guy. Mike makes the point that Christ is as cheerful as they are glum.

I think imagination is given to us to appreciate stories like this one this morning. Here comes this cheerful guy. He is coming across as maybe simple. He comes across as having no idea of current events. We can tell by the way the others treat Christ that they are looking down on this simple uninformed person. He clearly doesn't understand the importance of the times. And Christ doesn't correct them at all. He lets them go on. Here Christ is, the main figure in the story. He is the one all the hubbub is about. But he probably acts curious and uninformed. And you can know for certain that it required some acting on Christ's part. We probably do not consider that the Son of God is capable of such a thing. But we see this morning that He is.

Christ says- **"What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"**

In our vernacular it might be, "What are you talking about that has you so bummed out?" When we look at the character Christ is play acting, can't we just imagine those people we have met that can be so irritating because they are always positive, but the only reason they are so positive is that they never think about anything seriously? They are happy because they are simple.

Then one of these guys, Cleopas talks back to Christ. I think it is interesting here that Luke gives us a name. He wants us to know for certain that this was a true conversation with a living human that has a name and could have been tracked down as a witness of this event.

"Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

Our common phrase that might catch the meaning here would be, "Where have you been man? Have you had your head in the sand? Haven't you heard any of the news?"

Now remember who they are talking to. They are talking to the news. If Christ just wanted to deliver a message, wouldn't He have done it right now? But no. Look what He says.

¹⁹ **And He said to them, "What things?"**

Christ plays along with it. He is play acting, pretending He is the ignorant dunce they are taking Him to be.

I don't know about you, but this is so encouraging to me. It tells me that heaven will truly be the best of life and more. If Christ enjoyed humor in this event, we can see that it is part of His character. If He enjoyed it here, surely He will enjoy it

in eternity with His friends, when there is no self sacrificing mission at hand to perform. All the stress will be off at that point. All of Christ's friends will be safe. One other thing about humor... do you ever laugh at your small children or other people's small children when they get so upset about things that don't matter? Have you ever considered that God may be laughing at the things we are so bummed out about. Our disbelief is no laughing matter, but our absolute foolishness and refusal to trust God in the most transient and unimportant things may be the very things that God laughs at at times. And oh how offended we would be with God if we saw Him laughing. Think of what we would accuse Him of. Yet His perspective, like the mature adult watching a child knows the utter absurdity of our pursuits and affections. And if He laughs, it is in the wisdom of knowing that we are stupid and we have a long way to go.

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

3- Jesus uses the opportunity to instruct

Now the two men unload their hearts to this simple traveler. This is the conversation these men were having. They could have been talking about anything, but they were talking about Jesus.

These men are clear on what they think. They can explain it clearly. They think well. They report their position accurately.

Note their understanding of Jesus. This helps give us an idea of what Jesus's contemporaries thought and expected of Christ.

First, they considered Him Jesus of Nazareth. That is how they knew Him. He was the Jesus that was from His home town Nazareth. Maybe they knew He was born in Bethlehem. Maybe they didn't.

Second, they consider Him a prophet. That would mean that they saw Christ as a spokesperson for God. God was essentially speaking through Him. That was a very lofty title.

mighty in deed and word before God and all the people- Both what Jesus said and what He DID were mighty. His followers recognized the power of God in the ministry of Christ. They clearly saw Jesus as someone special. He was sent from God. He was one of God's people.

how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

There are some who try to put the blame for the crucifixion on Rome. But that was not the understanding at the time. The followers blamed the Jewish leaders, and ultimately the Jewish people for the death of Christ. Rome was just a pawn in carrying out what these leaders wanted. That is how these common folk who were in the know saw it.

²¹ **But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.**

The word for redeem also means to liberate. Redeem is what Christ did to all who believe in Him. He also liberated them from the power of sin. Praise God for that, even though we live often as if we don't believe that fact at all. But what these followers probably meant is that they thought He would liberate them from Rome's control.

Now things get more interesting.

. ²² **Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."**

Look at this. Look at how unbelief interprets the facts. They say that some of these crazy women said really bizarre things. Notice how they word this. We all tend to restate things through the sieve of our beliefs. They say that the women had a vision of angels

The word for vision means a sight, a vision," an appearance presented to one whether asleep or awake:

When used in scripture it is never used for something someone witnessed in the normal state of affairs. It is always a supernatural seeing.

But these women **did not** have a vision. They witnessed an event in time and space and matter. They saw real angels who spoke real language that gave a real message that said that Jesus was really alive.

Then some of those other believers who were associated with these men went to the tomb and they got to see there was no body. But that is all they got to see. They didn't get to see Christ. At this point the two men must have had to leave to

do what they had to do. It is unlikely that they would have left otherwise in the middle of this mystery. In fact, they probably dreaded that they had to go home at this point.

Okay. Jesus has been silent through this explanation until now. But He will not be silent any longer. Now it is to Christ's credit that He is so patient with these men. How many times did He tell His followers that He would be resurrected? And yet these men didn't believe, even though they have eyewitnesses to angels telling them that Christ was risen from the dead. At least the women at one point said "oh yeah. Christ did say something about that". These followers didn't even do that.

Now we get to our third point that we started verse 19 with.

3-Jesus uses the opportunity to instruct.

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Now this supposed simpleton stranger reveals his depth. We should learn by this that not everyone who keeps a humble disposition has nothing to grant us. Here is Christ in the guise of someone who knows little.

Now Christ starts in on them. And look what He says. Time for fun is over. He has some truth to deliver.

"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

How would you have liked this? You are talking to a stranger, maybe even in a condescending fashion. And the all of a sudden He starts calling you utter fools. Humility is called for here. And Christ never seems to apologize for requiring humility in the hearts of His followers when He addresses them. In fact the truth is **we need humility** to receive **the truth about us** at **any time** by **any one**.

Humility receives the truth because humility is the quality, really, of seeing one's self as one is. Pride sees ourselves as **we imagine ourselves** to be or as **we wish we were**. Humility is the only view of life that will not balk at truth. Humility can agree, nod its head, and continue to listen. Oh that we would learn true humility so we can hear from God when He speaks to us through His word or through the ministry of each other.

Why are they foolish? They choose to disbelieve, even in the face of eyewitnesses who are telling them that Christ did exactly what He said He would. How dense can they be? A bell ought to start ringing in their heads sometime, but it shows no signs of being any time soon.

Do you realize what we are seeing here? We are seeing typical ministry. We often think we should be able to get close to a topic regarding someone's failure

and they should be able to take a hint. You know what? Hints are often not what we need.

There's a joke about a farmer complaining to a friend about the trouble he was having in getting his stubborn mule to move. After listening to the farmer's complaint, the friend said he knew just what to do. He said

"Get a two-by-four and whack the mule across the head with all your might," The farmer was taken aback. "But how will that get him to move?" asked the farmer. "Well, you see," the friend said, "first you've got to get his attention!"

Sometimes we are like the mule and only the most forceful of truth will make the point. Jesus doesn't hold anything back here. We need to follow Christ's example when ministering to others. There is no sense hinting at the truth. If it is worth addressing, it is worth addressing clearly and pointedly.

So what is the problem with these travelers to Emmaus?

They are **slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!**

Again we see people who are distraught, confused, perplexed. And does Christ pity them. Nope. He points right to the problem and it is not at all complementary. If Christ would have asked them what their problem was, they would have replied that it was **their circumstances** that were the problem. They would be doing much better if it weren't for **these circumstances** that God has placed us in. But what did Jesus say the problem is? God has spoken and you choose not to believe what God has said.

I know we have said this before, but it is too true to skip over. What is it about us? Do we just love misery so much we have to have more and more? Trust will not remove physical suffering. But trust does provide a platform for us to stand on in the midst of the greatest adversity. We can have hope even when no one around us can see any reason for it. Even when our enemies are gloating over us belief allows us to see the value in what we face. Pain is still pain. But we can see that we are far more blessed than those who have no hope.

These road walkers in our story could have been rejoicing. They had every reason to. But they were miserable. And there is only one reason. They did not believe God. They did not believe what scripture says. They were focused on wanting life the way they wanted it. They just wouldn't let go of it. How can we put this so we will really get it? Belief will trust that God will make whatever we face worthwhile. Belief will trust that God allows pain into our life for a purpose, even when we have no idea what that purpose is. Belief will know that in the end we win and all of this will be a distant memory. Sometimes belief will tell us that we are only suffering because we are calling our Lord and Savior a liar.

We fear, we worry, we envy, we covet, we lust and all of that is based on disbelief. All of it. When will we believe it? When will we trust God? When?

Then Christ goes on to show these men specifically what they missed. He applies the truth to exactly what they need to hear.

Now we need to look at this. When God in flesh sought to minister to these human beings, what did He use? Did he use some ad lib story or teaching? He could have. He certainly had the authority to. But He did not. He went to what some would think archaic old dry passages of scripture and explained what they meant to these men. Now think about that. If that is how the Son of God ministered to people after the Resurrection, doesn't it make sense that we follow His lead? But I guess we all realize that we must first **understand for ourselves** what Scripture says. And that means that we must first study it. If that is good enough for Jesus, how can it not be good enough for us?

²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Jesus here explains to these followers how the Old Testament prophesied exactly what was to come. I wish we had the transcript. It would help so much in understanding all of the Old Testament prophesies.

We will find in our study of Isaiah how many prophesies of Christ were a mixture of both Christ's first coming and second coming. It would have been hard to know exactly how to divide them or understand them. But anyone should have seen how Isaiah 53 was fulfilled. And there were many others like it.

Whatever the case, Christ showed these men from the age old Word of God that what Christ suffered had been planned since creation. It had to happen.

Next week we hope to expound on the other 5 points from this text.

Today is the first day of 2017. What do we want this year to accomplish in us? What would happen to us if we really believed the resurrection this year? What would happen in us if we acted like God is with us in every circumstance? What would happen if we acted like God was with us in every thought? How would our lives change if we lived every moment as if we were in His presence? Because we are in His presence whether we believe it or not.

I think we would all do well to consider this as we face another new year.