

RECOGNIZING THE RISEN LORD | LUKE 24:13-35 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 10/18/2026

I. The Unrecognized Savior (13-16) | II. The Unfolding of Scripture (17-27) | III. Their Unveiled Eyes Opened (28-35)

INTRO: Have you ever looked right at something—and **still failed to see it?** – Sometimes the problem is not that something is hidden, it is that **We FAIL TO RECOGNIZE what is right in front of us!** The same can be true Spiritually... We can know the Stories, know the Scriptures, know the Language, and **STILL FAIL to see JESUS as clearly as we should.** – Our text today brings us **face-to-face** with one important question: **DO WE TRULY RECOGNIZE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS?** – Because seeing Him clearly **CHANGES** what we believe, how we understand His Word, and the direction of our lives. So today, our focus is—**RECOGNIZING THE RISEN LORD!**

I. THE UNRECOGNIZED SAVIOR (24:13-16) — **READ:** Luke now *fast forwards* to a scene where two disciples are on a road to a nearby village named: **Emmaus** = *Warm Springs*.

A. Their Discussion (13-15a): As they made their way, they were recalling all the things that had taken place. – Luke says they *“talked together”* and *“reasoned.”* – They were trying to make sense of the arrest, the crucifixion, the burial, and now the reports concerning the empty tomb.

- They knew the facts—but **missed the full picture!**
- **Their expectations** shaped their view of Jesus more than His own words.
- Knowing Scripture’s events is not the same as understanding their truth. (*Help was needed!*)

B. Their Savior Drew Near (15): Then Luke says: *“Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.”* – **“JESUS HIMSELF!”** ... They were talking about Him— And now **He was Walking Beside Them!**

- Throughout scripture we read of **God Walking with men** to encourage them and impart His ways to them: (e.g., **ENOCH** *“walked with God and was not”* (**Gen 5:24**); also, **NOAH** *“walked with God,”* (**Gen 6:9**); and **To ABRAHAM** God said, *“Walk before me and be blameless”* (**Gen 17:1**).
- In the N.T., **CHRISTIANS** are encouraged *“Draw near to God”* (**James 4:7**), and to *“Walk in Christ”* (**Col 2:6**); but HERE we see THE RISEN LORD drawing near these discouraged disciples to help them understand. > **JESUS wants us to UNDERSTAND HIS WORD!**

C. Their Recognition Was Restrained (16): Jesus was beside them... but they **DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM!** *“... their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.”*

- Before He Opens their eyes, **He wanted to Open their Understanding.** (*It requires spiritually thinking*)
- Before they could recognize His face as their Risen Lord—**HE WANTED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS WORD!** (*As the angels with the women – cf. vv.6a-8*)

P/A: But when Jesus did not fit their expectations, **their Faith Faltered.** > We do the same when we expect Him to answer, act, fix, or remove something according to our plans... **But Jesus does not conform to our expectations—OUR EXPECTATIONS MUST CONFORM TO HIM!** – (**Prov 3:5**) says: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”*

- Many People Know OF Jesus, but fail to Recognize the WHOLE STORY; of Who He is (LORD), and What He came to do (Purchase Redemption), according to God’s will. (*It req. spiritual thinking!*)
- (**1 Tim 2:4**) *“[God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

SEGUE: Jesus now begins Asking Questions, not because He needs information, but because **He wants to expose what is happening inside their hearts...**

II. THE UNFOLDING OF SCRIPTURE (24:17-27) — **READ:** *Jesus' question invited them to bring their troubled hearts into the open* (17). > What a contrast with blind Bartimaeus—though unable to see physically, he saw Jesus clearly enough to cry: “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight” (Mark 10:51).

A. Their Sadness Was Revealed (18-21): Assuming Jesus was a **Visitor to Jerusalem**, Cleopas answers (18): “... have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” — He assumed the stranger **did not know**, but in reality... **Jesus is the ONLY ONE Who completely knew what happened!**

- **Ha!** Imagine asking Jesus if He knows what happened to Jesus! (*We do the same...God don't you know*)
- 1. Jesus simply Responds (19a): **“WHAT THINGS?”** — With a touch of divine irony, Jesus essentially said, **“Go ahead, Cleopas—tell Me what happened to Me!”**
- 2. They two when on to describe the Facts (19b-20): *“Jesus... was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people”* (cf. Deut 18:15) > **Everything they said was True**—and they believed it... **BUT IT WAS INCOMPLETE!** > **Jesus was a Prophet... but He was more than a Prophet. He is the Christ, the Son of God, the RISEN LORD!**
- 3. The real issue... **Doubt** (21b): *“But We Were Hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel”* > There it is... **They Expected a Redeemer, but Misunderstood WHAT Redemption Required!**
 - They wanted Redemption from ROMAN RULE but Jesus came to accomplish Redemption from SIN!
 - They assumed the Cross **disproved** Jesus as Redeemer— **WHEN THE CROSS WAS ACTUALLY HOW HE REDEEMED THEM!** — (1 Pet 1:18-19) says: *“You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ.”* (*Doubt often leads to Sadness!*)

B. Their Confusion Was Exposed (22-24): *They had heard the testimony:* the Tomb was empty, the Body was gone, and Angels declared, “HE WAS ALIVE!” > Others even confirmed the **Empty tomb**. — Yet their final words **Revealed their Lingering Doubt...** *“But Him they did not see”* (24).

- **They had the Evidence**—Yet they **continued walking in sorrow** because they but had not reached the **Right Conclusion!** — **Information alone** had not produced faith; they needed Scripture to interpret what had happened—now Jesus would reveal **WHY...**

C. Their Understanding Was Corrected (25-26): Jesus responds: *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the Prophets have spoken!”* (25) — The Greek word **anoētos** carries the idea of being **Spiritually Dull** or **Failing to Understand**. — Notice Jesus does not say: “You need more evidence.” — He says: **YOU NEED TO BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID!** (*i.e., Biblical Testimony!*).

1. They believed **SOME** passages concerning **Messiah's Glory**, but struggled with the passages concerning His Suffering and even his Death.
2. Jesus declared: *“Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”* The word **“Ought”** speaks of **Necessity**, because **the Cross was not an accident:** (Acts 3:18) *“But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”*
 - God's plan had always involved **suffering, then glory!** (*They needed to understand this*)

D. The Scriptures Were Explained (27): *This is one of the greatest verses of the passage: “...He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* **WHAT A BIBLE STUDY!**

1. The word “**Expounded**” is the Greek *diērmēneuō*, meaning *to interpret* or *explain thoroughly*. Jesus showed them **HOW Scripture fit together**— **AND HOW IT ALL POINTED TO HIM!**

- Perhaps He spoke of the **Passover lamb** in (Ex 12), the **bronze serpent** in (Num 21), the **suffering Messiah** of (Psalm 22), and **the pierced One** of (Zech12) ...
- We’re not told of every passage but only the main subject: **THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF.**

2. The Word of God (*aka Bible*) is not merely a collection of stories > **THE SCRIPTURES LEAD US TO JESUS CHRIST!** — (John 5:39) *“You search the Scriptures... and these are they which testify of Me.”*

- Jesus is *“the Word [who] became flesh”* (John 1:14)
- So then... Here, on the Emmaus Road: **The Living Word opened to them Written Word!**

P/A: LET SCRIPTURE DEFINE WHO JESUS IS! The cure for their confusion was not a new Jesus— **IT WAS A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS!** — And that remains true today!

- We do not get to create the Jesus we prefer, a Jesus who never confronts sin, a Jesus who always agrees with culture, ... **WE MUST RECEIVE JESUS AS SCRIPTURE REVEALS HIM!**
- Jesus Christ is the **suffering Savior**, the **sacrificial Lamb**, the **risen Lord**, the **coming King!**
- (2 Tim 3:16) says: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* so when Scripture corrects my opinion, **Scripture Wins!** > When Scripture confronts my desires, **Scripture wins!** > When Scripture contradicts the culture, **Scripture wins!** *Align yourself with Scripture* (cf. Psalm 119:9)

SEGUE: Their understanding was changing as Jesus opened the Scriptures, but NOW that truth was about to become *unmistakably personal*...

III. THEIR UNVEILED EYES OPENED (24:28-35): *When their journey ended, the unveiling began.*

A. They Invited Him to Remain (28-29) — **READ:** As they approached **Emmaus**, Jesus indicated *He would continue farther...* most likely to see their response (28). — **P/A:** Jesus always presents us with an opportunity to respond to his teaching.

- They urged Him (29): *“Abide with us, for... the day is far spent.”* In (John 15:4-7) Jesus encourages all disciples to **“Abide with Him.”** > But something about His presence and His words here, **had stirred a desire for more.** **They still did not recognize Him— BUT THEY DID NOT WANT HIM TO LEAVE!** So: *“He went in to stay with them.”* (*Which is really what He desires*)

P/A: Church, do you continually desire Christ’s presence—or only occasionally? (cf. Psalm 27:4)

B. Their Eyes Were Opened (30-31): — **READ:** *The table was a familiar place for Jesus.*

1. Though Invited as the Guest, **Jesus Assumes the Place of the Host**—*taking, blessing, breaking,* and *giving the bread* (30). — The risen Lord was already guiding this intimate moment. (*Sharing a Meal*)
 - How familiar this must have been for those two disciples, who were **most likely present** *when feeding the multitude* (Luke 9:16)
2. They Must have Watched Him Intently (31) — *As soon as Jesus gave them bread...* Luke tells us that *“Their eyes were open and they knew Him.”* (*Picture the Scene: I knew it... I knew it!*)

- **Finally—They Recognized Him as Risen Lord!** – The Stranger was the Savior, the Traveler was the Messiah, the One explaining the Scriptures was the One the Scriptures were about!

3. Then Luke tells us that He **“Vanished from their sight;”** teaching them that Faith could no longer depend upon physical sight, but upon His Word and Resurrection. – They no longer needed His visible presence in order to believe.

- Jesus would appear hours later to the other disciples (*cf.* 36-43)
- Jesus would later tell Thomas: **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”** (John 20:29)

P/A: Like these disciples, We too need more than information about Jesus—we need our Spiritual Eyes opened to recognize Him personally. > **Ask the Lord to use His Word to reveal who He is, to strengthen your faith, and redirect your life!**

C. Their Hearts Were Burning (32) — **READ:** Luke doesn’t mention their **Wonder of His Vanishing**, but focuses on **their Reaction to the Revelation: HE OPENED THE SCRIPTURES!** (*to their minds dianoigo*)

1. And as He did, their **“hearts burned within them.”** > The word **kaio** means to *set on fire, burn, or consume with fire!* – This is what happens when **TRUTH REACHES THE HEART!**

- Jeremiah described God's Word as: **“A burning fire shut up in my bones”** (Jer 20:9)

2. **Biblical Christianity is neither cold information nor empty emotion.** > When Christ applies His living Word, it pierces, convicts, and transforms us; ***The word of God is living and powerful.*** (Heb 4:12)

3. **Biblical Christianity is not Cold Information, nor is it Emotion Without Truth.** > **When the living Christ applies the living Word, it cuts us and convicts us, and when activated in our hearts, it EMPOWERS US; “...for the word of God is living and powerful...”** (Heb 4:12)

- The disciples started their journey with **sad hearts**— **THEY ENDED WITH BURNING HEARTS!**

D. Their Direction Was Changed (33-35) — **READ:** Luke says: **“So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem..”** Don't miss that! > Earlier they were **WALKING AWAY** from Jerusalem... Now— **THEY TURN AROUND!** > Same road, same distance, same evening, **DIFFERENT HEARTS!** Why? **THEY HAD RECOGNIZED THE RISEN LORD!** – They returned to tell what had happened...

- The earlier discouraged disciples became **Declaring Disciples** > Earlier they said: **“WE WERE HOPING...”** now they knew: **JESUS WAS ALIVE!** – **This should likewise be OUR CONFESSION!**

P/A: Perhaps Disappointment has sent you in the wrong direction. **You expected Jesus to answer differently, act sooner, or remove the difficulty.** > **Do not let your disappointment Define Him... let Scripture REVEAL HIM!**

- He is not a defeated Savior or a teacher buried in the past... **HE IS THE RISEN LORD!**
- **If you have never trusted Him,** receive Him as your Savior and Lord!
- **If discouragement has clouded your vision,** return to His Word, allow Him to redirect your life!

When you Truly Recognize who Jesus IS, you don’t just think differently, YOU WALK DIFFERENTLY!

MAY OUR PRAYER BE: **“Lord, open Your Word, open my eyes, and help me see You as You truly are.”**
That is **RECOGNIZING THE RISEN LORD.**