

WHERE HOPE COMES FROM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2015
Pastor Brian

¹³ That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, *"What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"*

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "...our leading priests and other religious leaders handed [Jesus] over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel..."

Luke 24:13–21 (NLT)

WHY WE LOSE HOPE

1. WE LOOK AT OUR PAST AND FEEL DISCOURAGED.

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? And you, can you do right, being so accustomed to wrong?" (Jeremiah 13:23, NJB)

2. WE LOOK AT OUR PROBLEMS AND FEEL DEPRESSED.

"As for me, I am helpless and in your power..." (Jeremiah 26:14, The Living Bible)

3. WE LOOK AT OUR PROSPECTS AND FEEL DESPAIR.

"Why is a man allowed to be born if God is only going to give him a hopeless life of uselessness and frustration?" (Job 3:23, The Living Bible)

"My life drags by—day after hopeless day." (Job 7:6, The Living Bible)

WHERE WE FIND HOPE

"...And this is the secret: Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27, The Living Bible)

1. I HAVE A PAST FORGIVEN.

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23, NLT)

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

“Yes, the old system...never made anyone really right with God. But now we have a far better hope, for Christ makes us acceptable to God, and now we may draw near to him.” (Hebrews 7:18–19, The Living Bible)

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3, NIV)

2. I HAVE POWER FOR LIVING.

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NLT)

“...We pray for God’s power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11, CEV)

3. I HAVE A HOME in HEAVEN.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:1–6, NIV)

“...we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel” (Colossians 1:4–5, NIV)

ACTION STEPS

BELIEVE

BE BAPTIZED!