

Tuesday, April 21

Broken Hope on the Road

Luke 24:17–21a

“And He said to them, ‘What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?’ And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, ‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?’ ... ‘But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel.’”

Few sentences in all of Scripture ache quite like this one: “But we had hoped.” Past tense. Done. Finished.

These disciples had staked their hope on Jesus of Nazareth. They had seen His mighty works and heard His powerful teaching. They had believed He was the promised Redeemer.

And then the cross happened. The religious authorities—the very people who should have received their Messiah—delivered Him up to death. Everything what these two men had hoped for lay buried in a borrowed tomb.

So they walked away. They left Jerusalem behind, heading home to Emmaus with nothing left but grief and a fading memory of what might have been. We know this kind of sorrow.

We carry it when prayers seem unanswered, when a diagnosis comes back wrong, when a relationship falls apart. “We had hoped.” But here is the Easter truth that these disciples do not yet see: their hope is not dead. He is walking right next to them. The One they are mourning is the One asking them questions.

The cross was not the end of God’s plan; it was the center of it. Whatever broken hope you carry today, know that Christ is not finished. He is risen, and He is near.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever experienced a “but we had hoped” moment in your life? What happened?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus allowed the disciples to express their sadness before correcting them?
3. How does the resurrection change the way we understand our disappointments?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we confess that our hopes sometimes break. We lose sight of Your promises and walk away in sorrow. Forgive us, and remind us that the risen Christ walks with us even in our grief. Restore our hope through Your living Word. Amen.

Family Action Item

Share a “but we had hoped” moment with someone you trust today—a family member, a friend, a fellow church member. Then pray together, asking God to replace that broken hope with the sure hope of the resurrection.