

Dinner With Jesus Part 4

Divine Appointments

Luke 24:13-35

Memory Verses: Luke 24:32

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Over the last few weeks we've been sitting at the table with Jesus. Not literally, but through the many stories in the Gospels of when Jesus ate with others. Each meal reveals something new about who Jesus is and what he came to do for us. But if you've noticed, there is one common theme surrounding all of these meals, and that is the grace and love of our savior. He shows grace to the tax collector, Matthew. Even though he's a snake and traitor, Jesus shows him forgiveness and love. He shows grace to an adulterous woman who the Pharisee Simon can't even stand in his presence. And as we saw last week, He shows tremendous grace at the great banquet where the poor, crippled, blind, and lame are all invited in so that Jesus' house may be full.

Together these meals have shown us the heart of our Lord. He loves us and looks past our mistakes and failures when we put our faith in Him. His grace is for the broken. His forgiveness is for the sinner. His invitation is for the outsider. Before he tells us of our faults... he always opens his arms of grace. One phrase that has stuck with us through this series is this... **Jesus always sits with sinners before He stands to preach.**

Today we are going to see another time Jesus sits to eat with people and shows us his grace... but this is different. Look with me over in **Luke 24:28-33**. After the crucifixion, two men leave Jerusalem and start walking towards a town called Emmaus. They are burdened by what they have seen and are contemplating it in their hearts when all of a sudden they are joined by another man who begins speaking with them and sharing the Old Testament prophecies about Christ with them. So naturally they invite him to eat dinner with them...and then it is revealed that it's Jesus and poof he disappears. Pretty crazy story. Here we get two ordinary men, only one of which is named, getting to spend a whole day with Jesus after his resurrection. Why did Jesus choose to spend the day with them and not his disciples or mother or someone more relevant? Why these two guys? And how does this story even apply to us?

This passage reminds us that Jesus doesn't just care about the most famous of us. No, he cares about all of us... even the average ones like me and you. And it also reminds us that Jesus doesn't just meet us in the extraordinary moments. He also meets us in the confusing and depressing times. He meets us on the road of struggle and heartache.

He meets us in the ordinary routines of life and even at the dinner table. And when he does, our eyes are opened and our hearts are set on fire.

I've been there. You've been there. We've all been on our own Emmaus road. We've all had times where life didn't make sense or felt mundane and meaningless. We didn't understand what God was doing or why he was taking so long to do it. But if we examine those times now we can all point to a moment where God surprised us and showed up in mysterious ways. Through a conversation or a coincidence or even a strange circumstance. And it reminds us... he's always there and he always cares. And so, today I want us to recognize this... **Jesus often turns ordinary moments into divine appointments.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here this morning is this... **Jesus Sets Divine Appointments In Ordinary Times.** Let's look at the first part of our passage in **Luke 24:13-24**. These two men are leaving Jerusalem, discouraged and confused about the events of Jesus. They had hoped he would be the Messiah... but that's all messed up now cause he's dead. What do we do now they wondered. They have a long, boring walk back home with nothing to do but talk about their experience and make conjecture to whether he is dead or risen. But then all of a sudden Jesus appears and starts walking with them. But notice **vs16**. Their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Jesus was with them... as they were talking about Jesus... and they didn't even know it.

This is key to our talk today. Sometimes you are merely driving or doing something unexciting. You are thinking or pondering something... maybe spiritual, maybe not. But then something changes and someone shows up and starts talking to you about spiritual things or points you to some spiritual truth or comforts you in ways you didn't expect. In that moment... it's very possible that that's Jesus and you don't even know it. It's a divine appointment. Why? Why does Jesus care to meet us in these moments? Because Jesus cares about you even in the ordinary little moments of life. He shows up when you least expect him to. **Psalm 34:18** tells us that the Lord is always near to the broken hearted. **Matthew 28:20** tells us that the Lord is always with us, even to the end of the age. **Hebrews 13:5** tells us that God will never leave us or forsake us. **Psalm 23:4** reminds us that even when we walk through deadly times... God is with us. These two men discovered something that day... **Your road of doubt may be a road of divine appointment.**

When I first moved to the area I felt a little alone. I didn't really know anyone and I was kind of doubting whether God really needed me here in Danville. In this time I frequented Star Bucks a lot. I would do my work there, play video games there, read books, and just chill. It was pretty uneventful and at times kind of boring. It's a pretty ordinary thing to do I

guess. But God showed up regularly. My first week of going to Starbucks I met a man named Jonathan. Jonathan was a strong believer and we had a lot in common. Jonathan encouraged me and let me know I had a friend. A few weeks later I met a guy named Joe. Joe was also a believer and we became good friends. Joe eventually even became an employee at our church for a couple of years. It seemed strange but God kept sending me these types of guys. A few weeks later I met a man named Waverly. Wave was a strong believer and local church planter. We still keep in touch from time to time. The point is this... I was just minding my own business trying to get a grasp on Danville, doubting God's calling... and God kept showing up in these men. These weren't coincidences... These were divine appointments. These were encounters that Jesus scheduled to encourage me and help me see that God was with me. To let me know, I wasn't alone. Again... **Your road of doubt may be a road of divine appointment.** The point is this... God often meets us in the everyday; the commute, the coffee shop, our jobs, watching television, or even the dinner table. So keep your eyes open. That strange encounter with your neighbor or the repair man... might just be a divine appointment. God shows up in mysterious ways in our most ordinary times. **Jesus often turns ordinary moments into divine appointments.**

The next thing we need to see this morning is this... **Jesus Speaks Through Divinely Appointed Words.** Let's look at the second part of our passage in **Luke 24:25-27.** Jesus shows up, even though they don't know its Jesus yet, and he begins to calm their doubts and fears with the word. He explains to them how everything in the Old Testament points to the Christ, his death, and his resurrection. And this is a reminder to us. We've spent a lot of time in the Old Testament, year of the Bible, year of Genesis... looking at how everything in the Old Testament points to Christ. Hopefully we've concluded this... the Old Testament isn't a collection of disconnected stories... its all one story fulfilled in Jesus. **John 5:39** tells us that all of the scriptures bear witness about Him. **2 Timothy 3:16** reminds us that all scripture is breathed out by God and applicable for the Christian.

So, get this, every single time you or someone else opens the Word of God and reads it... that is a divine appointment. It opens our eyes to the reality of who Jesus is and what he wants us to do. **The Word of God always points to the Son of God.**

I'll tell you another story of when I first moved to Danville. When I first got here I drove down 41 and went and visited a few churches in the area. At one church I met the Pastor and he told me straight up that Danville is the place where Pastors come to quit ministry. Danville chews up and spits out Pastors faster than a dog with a bone. I was very

discouraged. But then I met the Assistant Pastor at that church, Charlie. And Charlie shared with me his testimony and we talked for two hours and he encouraged me so much that eventually he became my best friend and mentor during my first two years here. Charlie would always encourage me with the Word of God. I would say something and he would say... well what does the Bible have to say about that. I remember many times talking with Charlie over the Word that my heart felt like it was on fire.

Same as the two guys in the story. Look again at **vs.32.** Their hearts were set on fire by the words read by Christ. Where one pastor tried to discourage me with his words... Charlie always encouraged me with the Word of God. Meeting Charlie wasn't an accident. It was a divine appointment. Anytime someone is sharing the Word of God with you, you shouldn't shrug it off... it may be a divine appointment. **Jesus often turns ordinary moments into divine appointments.**

The last thing we need to see today is this... **Jesus Shows Himself For Divinely Appointed Ministry.** Let's look at the first part of our passage in **Luke 24:28-35.** So back to the dinner with Jesus. They've walked and been comforted. They've opened the scriptures and been encouraged. Now they sit to eat. But this is a very short meal. Why? Because as soon as Jesus breaks the bread he disappears. But that's okay... they had been eating a meal all day long. Not a physical one, but a spiritual one. And they were full. So full in fact that they say their hearts were alive with fire.

So what do they do now? Do they just hang out and bask in the glory of the moment? No, they run all the way back to Jerusalem to testify to what had happened to them personally. This reminds us of the woman at the well who knew she'd met Jesus, placed her faith in him, and then ran back to the town to tell everyone about him. It reminds us of **Acts 1:8.** We receive the power of the Holy Spirit and then we become witnesses for Christ. Jesus didn't just show up to say hi, what's up. Jesus didn't just show up to surprise these men and give them an experience. Jesus did this so that these men would be empowered for ministry! It's clear throughout the whole Bible... **hearts set on fire won't stay silent.**

30 years ago Jesus scheduled a divine appointment for me. I was a young 14 year old punk who was living for himself, addicted to cigarettes, striving for the world, faking a Christian life at church, and giving my mom a run for her money. When a church from Jacksonville, FL of all places came to partner with our church for a week of revival services and mission projects. Our youth group hooked up with them and went door to door witnessing and setting up VBSs in local YMCAs and other places. One day I went to the YMCA for VBS and was asked to read the missionary story to the kids. I said okay, no big deal. I read the story of Jim Elliot who as a young man gave up his life in the states and moved to Ecuador to share the Gospel of Christ with a tribe who had never heard of Jesus. One day the

tribe he was trying to bring the Gospel to killed him. I was floored. There in the middle of telling this story to a bunch of kids I was dead silent with tears coming out of my eyes. I couldn't understand it... Jim was young, he was fit, he had a new wife, and the world was at his feet... and he gave it all up for Jesus just to be killed by a tribal man he didn't even know. And then I read one of the most important statements I'd ever read in my life. When people asked Jim why he went to Ecuador and gave up his life in the states he said this.... "it is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." In that moment I surrendered my life to ministry for Jesus. I wasn't going to try to hold onto this life anymore. I was going to trade it in for a life I couldn't lose. That day was a divine appointment by God to empower me to ministry! Get this... Jesus doesn't just show up so you can feel good; he shows himself to you so you can go on mission. **Jesus often turns ordinary moments into divine appointments.**

Application

Get this church... Jesus is always with us and he reveals himself through people and circumstances that if we aren't looking for them... we might miss it! These are divine appointments God has scheduled to comfort you, encourage you, and change you! From Emmaus, to your everyday life, to the ends of the world... watch for these moments and embrace them.

Conclusion

And if you didn't figure it out yet... this is one of the biggest takeaways from today. You are someone else's divine appointment. God is strategically maneuvering you into positions where you can be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ to those in need. To comfort, encourage, and empower others to follow Christ. To light a fire in their hearts through the Word of God. This is your calling. We are to be looking for divine appointments and we should be preparing to be a divine appointment for others. **Jesus often turns ordinary moments into divine appointments.**