

GOING DEEPER STUDY: EASTER SUNDAY (March 31, 2024)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Today we celebrate, celebrate, CELEBRATE Easter. This One event, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, is the reason, I would go so far as to say the only reason, there is joy in this world, love in this world, hope in this world. This, even though we are surrounded by war, terrors, viruses, collapsed bridges, and death itself. Evil, darkness, sorrow, death, do not have the final word ... Jesus does. Easter is THE definitive statement that God doesn't just exist out there somewhere, but that He cares deeply about us, He loves us, and has the power to turn death into life. That's quite a claim! If Easter did, in fact, happen, why would we devote our lives to anyone, or anything, else? HE HAS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

His Hands and Feet (Luke 24:13 – 43) ESV

^{24:13} That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, (*verse 14 omitted*) ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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?' ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² moreover some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some 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 And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying,

'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, '***Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?***' ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you!' ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?' ³⁹ ***See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*** ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his **hands and his feet.** ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does this passage teach us about these two travelers?
2. What does this passage tell us about Jesus and His priorities?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. What does, "they still disbelieved for joy" mean? v.41
4. Why did Jesus ask them if they had anything to eat?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. Share a time when you met someone somewhere, or at a time, you didn't expect and your surprise turned to joy?
6. How would you have felt if you had been with Cleopas? v.18
7. Has there been a time when you heard a passage from the Bible, or heard a song, and your heart stirred (burned) inside?
8. What difference does it make if Jesus rose from the grave?
9. Why was it important to know Jesus was not just a spirit? v.39

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to reveal Himself to you. Thank God that Jesus is alive, that death doesn't win, and there is life beyond the grave. God will meet you because He loves you.