

EASTER WEEK STUDY NOTES (April 17, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

It's Easter morning! This day celebrates the high point of our life and faith. Because of what took place that first Easter we live with a new confidence, a new and certain hope, a new and present power. All of the claims of Christian faith depend on the miraculous, supernatural reality of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Thursday's betrayal, and Thursday's garden prayer play an important part. His sham of a trial Thursday night, continuing into Friday morning, plays an important part. His brutal torture, His unjust condemnation, His journey to the place of His execution, all tell important parts of the story. His death and final cry "It is finished," reveal the lengths God was willing to go to find us and save us. But it is Easter morning, the empty tomb, Jesus alive, that provides the substance for all we believe. The resurrection of Jesus changes how we view Him, how we understand God, how we make sense of our life and death and eternity, and how we love others as we follow our risen Savior. He is so much more than a moral teacher, a prophet, a Holy one ... He is our promised redeemer, He is Emmanuel, God with us!

Meeting the Risen Jesus on the Road (Luke 24:1-35)

Read the entire passage, Luke 24:1-35. A portion is included below.

That first Easter morning ...

^{24:13} That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 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."

What Does it Say?

1. What was happening that first Easter morning?
2. What does this passage tell us about how Jesus' followers viewed the tragic events leading up to Easter?
3. What does this passage tell us about Jesus?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does it mean that they could not recognize Jesus?
5. What did these two believe about Jesus after His crucifixion?
6. Why did those closest to Jesus not believe the witness of the women who had visited the tomb? (read all of Luke 24:1-35)
7. What did Jesus mean when He said, "was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things ..."?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

8. If you had been one of the two walking on the road to Emmaus how would you have felt believing Jesus was dead?
9. If you thought that everything ended with Jesus' death, and there was nothing more, no Easter resurrection, what would you believe about God, and how would you live your life?
10. What do you think Jesus included in His teaching, "beginning with Moses and the prophets"? Psalm 22? Isaiah 53?
11. What would you do once you realized that it was Jesus, alive again, that had been walking with you, teaching you, breaking bread with you?
12. How is your life different because of what you believe about Easter? (Whether you believe Easter is true or not.)

Notes: _____

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to help you believe the truth of Easter, and also help you to love Him more. Ask God to help you recognize His miraculous power in the beauty of a sunset, the intricacy of insect, bird and flower, in the power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. God will help you because He is ALIVE and He loves you.