

# EASTER — Disappointment & Hope

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## Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels,

who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Lk 24:13–35.

## **False Expectations For the Messiah**

The disciples who walked with Jesus for 3 years expected that Jesus would overturn the Roman empire and bring Israel out of exile finally.

And when Jesus died, the hope of the disciples died with him.

And in the middle of this, they're asking a ton of questions.

In these moments of disillusionment, their hearts were sick and becoming cynical.

Also in these moments, our eyes can be so clouded by dead hopes and dreams that we can't see hope even if it's right in front of us.

Many who move to Seattle are those who walk away from the resurrection. They've moved here to avoid or at least put some distance to Jesus and the Church. And with them they carry baggage of Christians who divorced, ruined their family, Christian leaders who abused them; they walk away from individuals who killed their faith and their hope.

Many people in Seattle live on the other side of a cemetery of fallen hope.

And for those of us who feel like we're in that boat, we see this short story of Jesus chasing down these two discouraged disciples.

## **Strangers On The Road to Emmaus**

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus could have literally been in any other place. Yet he chose to spend the end of his day walking down a road to meet two despondent disciples.

This is in character for God.

The first time God ever responded to sin, he went after his two covenant partners and asked them questions, giving them a chance to speak for themselves.

The first time God warned a would-be murderer, he did the same thing by asking questions and letting the human choose how he would respond.

And here, we see the same pattern. God chasing down two humans to ask questions and allow them to speak for themselves.

## Are You Willing To Engage Your Mind?

When emotion is high, thinking is usually low. And so when Jesus responded to them, it was a slight rebuke:

“How unwilling you are to grapple with what is put before you!”

But then he presents his thesis of correction:

“Wasn’t it necessary for the Messiah to suffer all these things you mentioned and then enter his glory?”

The hope of the disciples was based in the wrong idea. They had misplaced expectations; ideas about Jesus that weren’t true, and he was there to set them straight.

And he began to conduct a mobile Bible study, surveying the Hebrew Bible starting in Moses and the Prophets (Genesis - Deuteronomy; Joshua - Kings, Major 3 Prophets & Minor 12).

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ge 3:15.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials

and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Dt 34:10–12.

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 49:6.

He may have cited some of these scriptures when he was explaining this to them:

Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Is 53:4.

This Bible study begins to set a fire in their hearts, and they urge him to stay with them for dinner. And while he was there, he broke bread with them, just like the night he was betrayed and it *must* have triggered something in their memory, because they all of a sudden realized it was Jesus.

They might have remembered that he completely changed the symbolism of Passover; instead of the blood being the protection from the Destroyer, and instead of the bread symbolizing the speed of their salvation and flight from Egypt, Jesus made it about him. He identified with the Passover lamb and with their salvation.

They might have remembered that Jesus told them that he was going to be handed over to the Romans, and that he had to die.

And it was in that moment that they realized their hearts were burning and ran back to the other disciples to let them know that they got it.



Today you can give Jesus your pain and your broken hopes. Jesus will correct your thinking, but will remind you the suffering he went to in order to set you free like the slaves in Egypt. But instead of freeing you from Egypt, he set you free from Spiritual Evil, free from death, and free from the gods that you once served.

He offers to cleanse you and make your red stains white like snow. And he leaves it up to each one of you how to respond.