

Easter Sunday 2026

Happy Easter Everyone!

- Jesus is Risen! Jesus RISEN is the greatest news in all the world
 - b/c **the resurrection is the guarantee of heaven** to all those who believe!
- It proved & validated that Jesus really was God who He claimed to be.

I have a lot of sermon titles this morning

Jesus walks with us
When Jesus walks besides you and You don't know it
From Confusion to Clarity
He was there all along
Hope Rekindled

Luke 24:13-35

Pray

Last time we were together, we looked at the single most important event

- in the history of all mankind. the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- and this morning we are going to see what happened after the resurrection
- as we look at the story of the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus
 - And as they're walking along Jesus comes walking alongside of them,
 - and he enters into a conversation with them.

They're talking about what had happened in Jerusalem, how that Jesus came into the city,

- how he was beaten up, and how he was put on a cross,
 - and that he died. And they are processing that.

I think it's safe to say they were at the lowest point of their lives,

- because they had certain expectations of what Jesus would do.
 - This Messiah they believed in.
 - They were expecting a conquering Christ. That's not what they got.
 - They got a crucified Christ.

They were expecting the Lion of the tribe of Judah. They got a sacrificial lamb.

- Their dreams came to a screeching halt.

Instead of the people crowning him as King of kings and Lord of lords,

- He was crowned with thorns and sent to a cross.

These disciples had left everything to follow Jesus.

- And It all went bad. They gave their lives for this guy, and now he's dead.

Maybe something has happened in your life that's been a big disappointment.

- Maybe you are losing hope because of the hard situation your facing
- I want to encourage you that you can have your hope restored this Easter
 - because Jesus encouraged these 2 discouraged disciples

That were bummed out and they had lost hope but Jesus rekindled their hearts

- and gave them hope again.

We must remember Even when it seems like all Hope is Lost. God is ALWAYS on the move!

- we serve a risen savior!!!
- and He's the God of all hope and with Him, all things are possible.

Now let's look at this story in Luke chapter 24 verse 13. It says

13 Now behold, two of them were traveling *that same day* to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.¹⁶ But *their eyes were restrained*, so that they did not know Him.

So here are two disciples And they can't get out of Jerusalem fast enough.

- They want to put as much distance between them and that bloody cross as possible. Have you ever faced a situation that was so hard, you said, "I just want to go."
 - I want to put as much distance as possible between this problem and me."

That's what these disciples did. They were basically leaving town. Giving up...

- So as they're walking on the road on their way home to a city called Emmaus
 - which is about seven miles from Jerusalem. (10 Miles to Idaho capital)

And this is the devil's strategy to keep us from God & distant us from other believers & church

- But Jesus himself joins them. But they don't know it's Jesus, This brings up an important point, The Bible presents **a God who is reaching out to us.**
 - He wants relationship with us! He wants to talk to us & walk w/ us through life!
 - We need to know that when we're going through trials
 - or facing disappointments and heartaches and feel so alone,
 - God is there with us **walking with us through our fiery furnaces,**
 - as He did with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

He's walking with us through our valleys & as we face giants as He did with David. And He's walking with us down our road of hopelessness as He did with these two
It reminds me of the Footprints Poem

Another interesting fact of this story it says in vs. 16 *their eyes were restrained*

- So they didn't know it was Jesus

And sometimes our eyes aren't always right.

- How many of you have discovered as you grow older your eyes don't work
 - the way they used to work? I'm blind as a bat
- And you wonder why you have to hold that book like 2 feet away to see it?
 - Because your eyes aren't always right.

They thought he was a stranger according to verse 18.

- **Why is it that they did not recognize that it was Jesus?**
 - there's a couple of answers to that. Number one, they didn't expect him to show up.
 - Resurrection was not on their radar screen.
 - They were not expecting to see Jesus alive again.
 - Number two, the crucifixion of Jesus was pretty brutal.
 - He went through some physical changes.

The Bible says **they plucked out his beard and that his appearance,**

- **was marred more than any other man.**

So much so that people frequently did not recognize Jesus after the Resurrection.

Mary in the Garden tomb thought Jesus was a gardener.

When I think about the world today,

- a lot of people's eyes are blinded to who Jesus Christ really is.

And the reason for that is the enemy,

2 Corinthians 4:4 the Bible says **that the God of this age, Satan himself, has blinded those who are perishing. From the good news of Jesus,**

- And there's a lot of things in life today
 - that blind people from seeing Jesus.

And I think in our modern day culture for us today,

- one thing that Satan uses to blind people to who Jesus Christ is
 - are the things & distractions of the world.

And when we focus on those things we can get our eyes off of the Lord very easily...

The next section involves their conversation with the Lord In verses 17 through 27,

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

I love how **Jesus here observed that they were sad.** And reading this really blessed my heart

○ because our God is not a far off cosmic creator who's unattached from his creation. No, He observes what we're going through. He observes what we're dealing with.

- He observes how we feel. He saw they were sad.
- the fact of the matter is we go through some very difficult times in our lives,
 - And for those of you who've not yet experienced great difficulty in your life,
 - cheer up, you will.

It's only a matter of time. But when we've got Jesus Christ in our life,

- we recognize and realize that God's going to get us through
 - this situation that we're going through.
 - **He's going to get us to the other side.**

But for those who don't have God in their life, I just don't know how they can do it.

- I don't know how they can get through the trials and tragedies that life brings.

But with Jesus in our lives,

- we recognize that God allows things to happen for a reason & purpose.

Ephesians 1:11, says that **God is working all things according to the council of his will.**

Romans 8:28 **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

- And as a child of God, whether I put it in category good or category bad,
 - I realize it's all being filtered through the fingertips of God.

And while I might not know God's plan, I might not even like or understand God's plan.

- We can rest in the fact that Gods on the throne & in control & working it out 4 my good

¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "**What things?**" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people," ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But **we were hoping** that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

I love how Jesus asked these two guys,

- **What things** are you guys talking about? " As though he didn't know,
 - he just lived them. And yet, beginning in verse 19,
 - **Jesus patiently listened to everything they had to say.**
 - He just was so patient with these two guys.

This blessed my heart because **God is patient with us.**

- I am so glad God was patient with me.
 - If I were God, I would have zapped me a long time ago.

But he's so patient with us. And what a great life lesson that is for us

- because we have a tendency to be so impatient with other people.

We need to follow the example that Christ set, **2 Peter 3:9** says, "**The Lord is long suffering toward us.**" **He's not willing that any should perish**, and hopefully that's our heart as well.

Now, they were hoping Jesus would be the redeemer,

- the one to get Israel out of Roman bondage, to free them from the Romans
 - but their plan looked different than Gods plan & they lost hope
- And we need to be careful **To not end up just hoping rather than trusting.**

Proverbs 3:5-6, Solomon said, "**Trust in the Lord with all of your heart.**"

- And when we put our trust in the Lord, we recognize that God's on the throne
 - and that God is orchestrating each and every situation in our lives,
 - whether we like it or understand it, agree with it or not,
 - that he is going to accomplish his will,
- And when we truly are trusting that God's in control, no matter what comes our way,
 - no matter what circumstances we are living in or dealing with,
- God's going to accomplish his perfect plan in each and every one of our lives.
 - So there's a big difference between hoping and trusting,

I think it is amazing how Jesus appeared to these normal people.

- He could of appeared to famous people like Ceasor, or pilot but
 - he appeared to Mary Magdalene, a lady he had cast seven demons out of.
 - He appeared also to Peter who failed Jesus,

but now he is appearing to two people and we don't even know the name of one of them.

- I find this amazing because it brings a simple point.
 - **Jesus always had time for just regular people.**

You know the **Zacchaeus of the world, that little dude who was so small,**

- he had to climb up in a tree to get a look at Jesus,
 - a little guy who no one wanted to hang around with
 - because he was a tax collector.
 - Jesus says, "I'm coming to your house for lunch today. "
- Or to the woman at the well, a woman who had been married and divorced 5 times
 - and was living in sin
- or the woman caught on the act of adultery. The list goes on.
 - He always had time for the common, hurting
 - ordinary people. for people like you and people like me.
 - And it's a good reminder that as we walk down life's road,
 - if we're a Christian, we're never alone.
 - And Jesus is walking with us, whether we can see him or not,
 - whether we can feel him or not.

David said, in **Psalm 23:4** "Yay, though I walked through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil. "Why? "Because you are with me. "

- I don't know what you're going through but God will walk you through it

In **Isaiah 43:2** God says, "When you go through deep waters and great troubles, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you go through fires of opposition, you will not be burned up."

²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain 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 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have

spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Imagine Jesus beginning to go through the Old Testament scriptures

- all 39 books on the road pointing out all the places where He was talked about.

I've often wondered what it would have been like to hear Jesus teach

- on those things from Genesis to Malachi.

And you can think of the various places where Jesus could have pointed to himself.

"You remember in Exodus when there was that Passover lamb that was sacrificed?"

- Remember how the blood was shed and placed on the door
 - and how death passed over? It was a picture of the lamb of God
 - that was to come and die so that we could overcome death

Remember when the nation of Israel was wandering in the wilderness?

- and they got bit by serpents for complaining. and Moses took that brass serpent,
 - placed it on a pole and put it in the middle of the camp and said,
 - "If anybody will look at this brass serpent, that they would immediately be healed?"

You remember Jesus said to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the son of man be lifted up."

There are so many examples of Jesus throughout the Old Testament

- it is all about Jesus from cover to cover.

Hebrews 10:7, "In the volume of the book, it is written of me.

They told him the story of how they lost hope and Jesus restored hope

- by giving them the greatest Bible study ever given on earth.

And if you want your hope restored or if you want your hope renewed,

- We NEED to get into the word of God.

Its easy in our world to put the Bible on the back burner and make your Bible Netflix,

- YouTube, social media, and the news while the word of God has been collecting dust.
 - And I want to encourage you, if you want your hope restored,
 - Meditate on God's word throughout the day.
 - b/c Movies, social media and News will never restore our hope.

Its only Gods word that's going to renew our minds & help us!

- God told Joshua meditate on it day & night & you will be prosperous!

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

the Bible says in **Romans 12:2** do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Jesus just finished the most amazing Bible study ever.

- And They didn't want him to leave. Stay with us. And he did.
 - And what a beautiful picture this paints
 - As they were hearing the words of Jesus,
 - it caused them to want to stay with Jesus.

And I pray that we too, would have that heart saying, God, I just want to be closer to you.

In **John 15:5**, Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.. "

I love verse 28 how Jesus acted as if he was going to go further.

- He didn't want to push himself on them.
 - but they wanted to spend more time with Jesus so they ask Him to stay!

So Jesus went home with them.

- This shows us He won't force his way into any human life.
 - You need to invite Him to come into your life and be your Lord.

Jesus addresses the lukewarm church, in **Revelation 3:20**, "Behold, I stand at the door and I knock. And if you'll hear my voice and open the door, I'll come in."

- But You have to open the door of your life and ask him to come in and he will.
 - the next verse is even more powerful in verse 32

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

People say, "I just want to be on fire for the Lord. I feel like I've cooled off."

How does someone get on fire for the Lord? by opening the scriptures

- and discovering who Jesus is and that Jesus is alive and he is coming again
 - That is what keeps the fire burning!

According to the Bible, you can have three spiritual temperatures.

- When you're not feeling well and you may go to the doctor,
 - one of the first things that they will do is take your temperature. Why?
 - Because that's an indication of how you are doing health-wise.

Are you a cold person? Are you a burning hot Christian? Or are you a lukewarm person?

First, there's cold. The Bible says in **Matthew 24:12**, because sinfulness will increase in the last days, the love of many will grow cold.

- This is a person that doesn't have an interest in the things of God." but this might surprise you. It's worse to be lukewarm than it is to be cold.
 - Why?

Because a lukewarm person thinks they have it together when actually they don't.

- To the lukewarm people, Jesus says in **Revelation 3:16**, "I know your works. You're neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth."

How many of you have ever thrown up? I hate to throw up. I don't know anyone who does.

- It makes God sick when we're lukewarm.

Luke warmness is the worst place of all.

- when you hear the gospel again and again, and you don't respond,
 - you hear it and you don't let it impact you in the way that you live.

God wants us to be a on fire Christian.

How did Jesus ignite their hearts? through the scripture, through the Bible!

- As they heard the word of God, their hearts began to burn.
 - if we want to have a heart that's constantly burning for God.
 - Open the Bible every single day and read it and let God speak to you.
- This is why our focus here at Water Brooks is on the Bible.

Their sorrow was replaced with joy. Their blindness exchanged for sight,

- their dullness of heart replaced with a burning heart.
 - And that burning heart led to motivation and determination
 - because what happened next?

³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

At that very moment, although it was nightfall, they did not waste any time.

- They immediately went back to Jerusalem to confirm the reports
 - that Jesus was no longer dead, he was alive, and we see

Their encounter with Jesus changed their direction & life immediately!!!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

I love how they also found out that he had already appeared to Simon.

Remember Simon Peter had vowed he would never deny the Lord.

- He said, "**Even if the rest of these disciples deny you, I will never do it. I'm so committed that I'm actually ready to die with you.**"
 - And yet you remember Jesus said to Peter, "**Before the rooster crows, you'll deny me three times that you know me.**"

Peter thought, "That is the most unthinkable prediction I have ever heard."

- but it did happen & peter felt super bad...
 - And the Bible tells us that when Jesus had risen from the dead,
 - he told the women specifically, "**Go tell my disciples and Peter, make sure that you tell Peter.**" Why the added name?
 - Because If anybody needed to know that Jesus was alive
 - and that it changed everything, it was Peter
 - because he had failed so miserably.

Jesus came and met with Peter privately and restored him and forgave him.

- **Have you failed recently? Have you made some poor decisions?**
 - **The good news is Jesus wants to forgive you, he wants to cleanse you.**
 - **and he will change your life.**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is the greatest sign

- given to the world of the power of God.
 - The Resurrection took place over 2000 years ago,
 - and it's not only changed the course of human history,
 - but it's changed eternal destinies because he lives,
 - And Jesus has changed countless lives!

I saw someone where a shirt yesterday that said "LIVING PROOF OF THE POWER OF GOD"

one thing we love to do on the first Sunday of the month, is to take communion

- Jesus said, "**As often as you do it, remember me.**"

Share Gospel & Take Communion