

Well here we are again on Easter Sunday morning.
Having commemorated His death on Friday,
We now come back today to commemorate His risen life.

That is why the church has met every Sunday for the last 2,000 years.

In the Old Testament God sanctified the 7th day as a day of rest,
But in the New Testament Christ set apart the 1st day
As a day of worship and celebration.

We meet because Jesus lives.

And I don't mind telling you that it is awfully tempting to just stop
And focus on all the glorious truths that come to us
Because of the resurrection.

*It is tempting to focus on the power He displayed over death.
It is tempting to focus on the hope we have over the grave.
It is tempting to focus on the security His life now provides.
It is tempting to focus on the intercession that now takes place.
It is tempting to focus on the fact that the resurrection proves the atonement.*

All of those are great results of the resurrection of Christ from the dead,
And they are quite literally truths that we never grow tired of repeating.

But this morning we are going to take a bit of a different approach.

Instead of giving you the doctrinal implications of the resurrection,
This morning I simply want to drive home one truth to you.

WHY WE BELIEVE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

And this is really no small point of importance.

You may even remember from our study together of 1 Corinthians
That the church at Corinth actually doubted the fact.

And their doubt pertaining to the resurrection was wrecking their faith.

That is why Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 "Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."

Obviously the implications of there being no resurrection are staggering.

No resurrection would literally mean no hope for Christians.

*No assurance in life after death...
No assurance of a heavenly home...
No assurance that Christ effectively paid for our sin...*

And in the Corinthian church it was threatening
All manner of Christian sacrifice and obedience.
(Why risk your life to obey if this life is all there is?)

And while the resurrection most certainly did occur,
What we learn from the Corinthian church is that
A failure to believe that it occurred can wreck your faith.

In short, you need to know why you believe that the resurrection is real.

And to do that, I want to take you to two men
Whose faith was turned upside down because they had failed
To embrace the one thing that could have solidified their faith.

They had failed to grasp the only thing that truly had the ability
To set their conviction in stone, and as a result their life was in a tailspin.

So let's catch up with these two men,
And see if we can't learn how to solidify our faith.

There are four points to help us walk through this story together.

#1 THE COMMUTE

Luke 24:13-14

"And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus"

The first question we have is **"two of"** who?"

Well, if you read the first 12 verses of Luke 24

- You realize that some women had gone to the tomb early Sunday morning to finish embalming Jesus body.

He died so late on Friday (that the Sabbath snuck up on them and they were not able to prepare His body until the Sabbath was over)

- But when they went they found the stone gone and Jesus missing.
- It was then that an angel told them,

(vs. 5-6) **"and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living One among the dead?' 'He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,'"**

I've always liked that question.

And the angels say:
"He is not here, but He has risen."

- Well the women, obviously, run back to tell everyone what occurred.

(9) "and they returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest."

These two men are part of "the rest"

They are disciples of Jesus, but not part of the 11.

(Not 12 because Judas has hanged himself)

And obviously they decided after Jesus' death
To spend the Passover together.

But now the Passover is over, and quite frankly
All their reason for hanging together is over.

It was a nice ride while it lasted, but Jesus was dead,
And there really wasn't any more reason to hang around.

These men were going home.

And whether that home was Emmaus or that was just the first leg of the journey we don't know, but that is where they were headed.

(14) "and they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place."

Don't you know that is an understatement?

As they walked they were hashing out 3 years
Of what had now become very confusing.

In a moment you will see what their conversation was about,
But for the moment just see that these men found no reason to stay.
The group was breaking up, it was over, these men were going home.

The Commute

#2 THE CONVERSATION

Luke 24:15-24

"While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them."

What you will soon figure out is that Jesus
Didn't care much for what they were talking about.

In fact later in verse 25 He will call them "foolish men"

Jesus didn't care for their reasonings about the situation.

And apparently He cared so little about what they had to say
That He decided to personally intervene.

IT REMINDS ME OF EZEKIEL GETTING CAUGHT BY HIS HAIR

This incident reminds me a lot of that one.

These men were having a conversation that did not please the Lord.
Their reasonings were way off.

And so Jesus decides to interrupt their little conversation.

"Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, 'What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?' And they stood still, looking sad."

So Jesus approaches, but doesn't allow them to recognize Him.

(As you will soon see He wants their faith
To rest on something other than sight)

He heard them talking specifically about "these things"
And then He asks what is all this you are talking about.

In today's terms: "What's all this about a crucifixion?"

In their answer we find out what they were talking about on the road.
(and we see why Jesus didn't care for it)

4 things

1) JESUS WAS DIFFERENT (18-19)

No first I hope you noticed that Cleopas practically insulted Jesus here.

"Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

"What's all this about a crucifixion?"

Answer: "What has Your head been stuck in the sand?"

To which Jesus answers "What things?"

And here is the summation of the conversation,
Beginning with that we thought Jesus was different.

"The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,"

They reveal that as they walked they were reminiscing on
Just how special they thought Jesus was.

I can almost hear them talking as they walked.

"I was just sure He was the One, remember when He calmed that storm?"

"Yeah, me too, remember when He put those Pharisees in their place?"

And as they walked they had talked about
How they were sure that He was different.

But their conversation quickly went to another area.

2) JESUS IS DEAD (20)

And all of a sudden you get a feel for the mood of the conversation.

"We were just sure He was the One, but I guess not because He is dead."

And the conversation was filled with how they must have misunderstood,
Or misread the signs, or possibly even been taken by Jesus.

**All the confession they had made during the previous 3 years
They are reneging on right now.**

We thought He was special, but obviously we were wrong.

3) WE ARE DEFEATED (21)

You can just hear the defeat in their voices can't you?

"we were hoping" (but apparently not anymore)

"besides all this, it is the third since these things happened."

No doubt they'd heard Him preach about being raised on the **"third day"**,
But here it was, and according to them **nothing happened.**

It was all for not
It is all over

Jesus was different, but Jesus is dead, and our hope is defeated

4) SOME ARE IN DENIAL (22-24)

And it is clear that they didn't see
The testimony of these women as verifiable.

In fact earlier in the chapter we read:

Luke 24:11 "But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them."

They literally thought the women were speaking out of their heads.

Here they come back raving about some angel or something.

Furthermore **"Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found
it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."**

In other words, we investigated their story,

But they didn't know what they were talking about.

Yes the tomb was empty, but we saw no evidence of Him being alive.

WHAT A CONVERSATION

*We thought Jesus was someone special
Obviously we were wrong, because He's dead
And while some are clinging to blind hope
We think it's time to just get on with our lives*

Now you know why Jesus felt burdened to enter this little conversation.

The Commute, The Conversation

#3 THE CORRECTION

Luke 24:25-27

And now we get to the point.

*These men were obviously distraught and defeated.
These men were obviously in doubt.*

And Jesus gets right to the point as to why their faith was so shaken.

1) HE EXPOSES THEIR WEAKNESS (25-26)

And what a confrontation that was.

First, you are weak in faith

**"O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have
spoken!"**

Notice Jesus did not get on the men for failing to believe the women.

Jesus got on these men for failing to believe **"the prophets"**

And now we are getting somewhere.

**DO YOU SEE WHY THESE MEN WERE WEAK IN FAITH AND CAUGHT IN
DESPAIR?**

Because they did not believe the Scripture.

It's one thing to be skeptical of those women who returned from the tomb.

*We live in a day of various testimonies about visions and dreams,
we know what it is to be skeptical of experiences.*

But there is absolutely no excuse for failing to believe the Scripture.

**Furthermore when we do fail to believe the Scripture
It wrecks our faith and leaves us in the pit of despair.**

To put it another way Jesus called them **"fools"** for disregarding it.

**Friends when we talk about the Scripture
We are not talking about man's plans and ideas.**

We don't have anything else in our lives that even comes close.

No amount of **EDUCATION**

No amount of **EXPERIENCE**

No amount of **INTUITION**

Can even come close to the value of God's word in our lives.

When you read the Scripture that is God speaking!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

**The folly of these men is that they did not treat the Scriptures
With that same kind of importance.**

**And because they overlooked or didn't take serious the word of God,
Now they were fools and their faith was in shambles.**

**If I never get another truth into your heart, then let me convince you
That the word of God is the central, ultimate, and reliable authority
For every area or our lives.**

Disregarding it will make fools of us all.

THESE MEN WERE WEAK IN FAITH

But that wasn't all.

They were also weak in knowledge.

They never took the time to fully understand God's Word.

**(26) "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to
enter into His glory?"**

**They were all distraught about the death of Jesus,
But had they studied the Scriptures
The cross would not have surprised them.**

Psalms 22:16-18 "For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots."

Isaiah 53:4-6 "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."

The cross was necessary.

**And after He suffered it shouldn't catch you off guard
That you don't see Him right now.**

He had to **"enter into His glory"**

After He died He had to go to the Father.

John 20:16-17 "Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

WHY?

Hebrews 9:11-14 "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

He had to present the blood of the sacrifice into the true Holy of Holies.

**And if these guys had ever taken the time
To study their Old Testament maybe they wouldn't be so shocked
To see all that was happening.**

**And there we understand
That disregarding the word of God may make us a fool,
But having the word and failing to study it proves us fools.**

**These men were fools in despair because they had
Not studied the word of God and had not believed what they did study.**

So Jesus first exposes their weakness

2) HE EXPLAINS THE SCRIPTURE (27)

My goodness, talk about a sermon I wish was in the Bible.

Can you imagine?

Jesus just preached Christ throughout the Old Testament.

Every sacrifice

Every feast

Every prophecy

And Jesus revealed how the cross of Christ fit the divine plan

**You see the Scripture is what these men were lacking
So the Scripture is what Jesus gave them.**

And this way isn't the only time, if we went further in the chapter you would see Jesus do it again.

When Jesus reveals Himself to the 11, even after seeing Him They still don't believe so look at what He does.

Luke 24:41-46 "While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them. Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,"

*It wasn't the angels...
It wasn't the visions...
It wasn't even touching the wounds...*

IT WAS THE SCRIPTURE THAT SOLIDIFIED THE FAITH OF THOSE MEN

They needed the Scripture.
And that is what Jesus gave them.
JUST AS HE DID FOR THESE TWO MEN HERE

The Commute, The Conversation, The Correction

#4 THE CONVICTION

Luke 24:28-35

Now first we notice that Jesus pretends to want to get away.
"He acted as though He were going farther"

This of course was to see if these men
Wanted more of what they were getting.

And the answer was a resounding, "Yes!"

(29) "But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them."

They wanted to hear more of these truths of Scripture.
They could literally feel their faith strengthened and their hope renewed.

Of course then Jesus allows them to see Him as they are eating.
He then disappears, and notice what they say:

(32) "They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Don't you love it when God's word does that to you?

When you are reading and it literally sets your heart on fire.
And somehow you know what you are getting is the absolute truth of God.

As Jesus preached the Scriptures to them,
There was a deep conviction that rooted into their hearts
And now these foolish men became full of faith and conviction.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT?

Look where they go.

(33-35) "And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread."

They go back to the place that previously laughed at the women.

Only when they get there they find that Simon had already talked to the Lord as well and had related it to them also.
THE SCRIPTURE MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES

THAT'S THE POINT THIS MORNING.

Jesus did rise from the dead!

How do I know that?

BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURE SAYS SO.

No need for apologetics

The resurrection of Jesus was PROPHESED in the Old Testament
and VERIFIED in the New Testament.

I've never seen the resurrected Christ...

I've never talked to an eye witness...

But when I read the Scriptures that same burning occurs in my heart
And I know that what I am reading is true.

I believe Jesus rose from the dead because the Bible says He did.

And if you will notice this was the fact
That the apostles hung their hats on as well.

I told you about that Corinthians who were doubting the resurrection.

Look at what Paul told them.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."

Paul said them it was true because the Scripture said so.

When Peter preached at Pentecost, (Acts 2)

He didn't talk about how he knew Jesus was alive. He quoted Psalms 16

When Paul preached at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13)

He did the same: He quoted Psalms 16

Psalms 16:10 "For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay."

They knew that the source of belief and conviction was the Scripture!

**This morning I not only want you to know
That Jesus rose from the dead,
I want you to know that we believe it because the Bible says so.**

**Furthermore I want to drive you to an understanding of
The extreme value of Scripture and its necessity in our lives.**

It is the Scripture that solidifies your faith.

It is the Scripture that confirms your hope.

It is the Scripture that guides you when all else falls apart.

**The eleven disciples and all those with them
Were in complete and total disarray and they didn't have to be.
If only they had read and believed the Scriptures.**

Friends there is not a gospel truth in this world that Satan will not attack.

*Some claim Jesus didn't die
Some claim Jesus stayed dead
Some claim Jesus wasn't real
Some claim Jesus won't return*

**The only way to save your faith from being rattled
Is to strengthen yourself on the word of God.**

**For that is why we know that Jesus died for our sins, was buried,
And on the third day rose again.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."