

Resurrection Aftershocks

Luke 24.13-35

Happy Easter! *He is risen!* During this Easter season, we are going to continue looking at some post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Let's pay attention to these often-overlooked stories because there is much to be gleaned. Here are some questions to guide you in your own study and preparation for Life Group. You don't need to answer each question; do what you can, not what you cannot!

Pastor Eric

Group Discussion: Which annual worship service do you cherish most, Christmas Eve or Easter? Why?

Read over Luke 24.13-35 and identify everything we learn there about these two travelers. Based on what you read, develop a character sketch of these two (have fun with it). What are they feeling? Verse 21 says they were hoping Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel. What do you think they meant by that? According to verses 19-24, these two knew a lot of facts about what had transpired. What facts did they know? Why do you imagine they still did not believe?

Can you relate to feeling strong in your faith one day, then having your faith shattered the next, like these two did? What did you do to get through the crisis?

What do you think Jesus means in verse 25? What do you imagine to be the tenor of his voice as he says what he does in that verse? Read again verse 27: What does "Moses and all the prophets" refer to? How was it possible for Jesus to show them what Moses and the prophets said *about him* when he wasn't even born yet?

Why do you think it took this pair so long to figure out it was Jesus who had been walking alongside them? When does it finally dawn on them? Read verse 32 again. What do you think they meant by that? What does it mean that their hearts were burning within them? Exactly when do they say their hearts were burning within them? Have you experienced what they describe in verse 32?

What's the connection between breaking bread (verse 30) and their eyes being opened (verse 31)? Luke also says that at that moment they recognized him. Luke seems to be making a connection between the Last Supper and what he describes in verse 30 (see Luke 22.19). Have you/do you experience your spiritual eyes opened when you receive the Lord's Supper? Do you recognize Jesus in a special way during worship services?

Everywhere a greater joy is preceded by a greater suffering.
St. Augustine. *Confessions* 8.3

Interact with Augustine's statement. How is that true?

Where is it that you need "resurrection" in your own life, a sense of renewal and new life? Note that it was a personal encounter with the risen Jesus that revived the hearts of these two downtrodden people. How can your Life Group be the presence of Jesus for you?

For personal reflection: How can you recognize Jesus' presence in your own life? Make a decision to slow down, focus, and draw into the presence of Jesus, confident that he's been with you all along your journey.