



When we struggle to see Jesus...

Philadelphia Church

Pastor Derek Forseth

April 24th, 2022

Truth

Sometimes things are hidden in plain sight
and we just don't recognize it.

Truth

Unfortunately, We don't always recognize
when God is at work.

Luke 24:13-16

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.



Luke 24:17-18

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

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ 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?”

Luke 24:19-21

“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. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ 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.

Question

Have You ever felt that the circumstances you're facing are too difficult and you wonder where God is in the moment?

Luke 24:22-24

In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue
4. Lack of prayer

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue
4. Lack of prayer
5. Lack of time in the Word

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue
4. Lack of prayer
5. Lack of time in the Word
6. Lack of fellowship

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue
4. Lack of prayer
5. Lack of time in the Word
6. Lack of fellowship
7. Slow answers or no answers to our prayers

Reasons we don't sense God's presence:

1. Frustration
2. Impatience
3. Fatigue
4. Lack of prayer
5. Lack of time in the Word
6. Lack of fellowship
7. Slow answers or no answers to our prayers

Song

"What have you done for me lately?"

Luke 24: 25-27

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

God can speak to us through:

1. His Word

God can speak to us through:

1. His Word

2. Strong premonitions

God can speak to us through:

1. His Word
2. Strong premonitions
3. Other believers

God can speak to us through:

1. His Word
2. Strong premonitions
3. Other believers
4. Our circumstances

God can speak to us through:

1. His Word
2. Strong premonitions
3. Other believers
4. Our circumstances
5. Dreams and visions

Job 33: 14-17

For God does speak—now one way, now another— though no one perceives it. ¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, ¹⁶ he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, ¹⁷ to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride,

Truth

Knowing God's word and hiding in our hearts helps us know that God is always present.

Luke 24:28-31

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.
²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24:32

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?”

Luke 24:33-35

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³ **if we are faithless, he remains faithful**, for he cannot disown himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

Even if we are faithless God remains faithful!

Two questions:

1. Have you invited Jesus into every part of your life?

Two questions:

1. Have you invited Jesus into every part of your life?

2. Are there circumstances or situations you are facing where you are struggling to see Jesus' presence?