

Luke 24:13-35

*Mount Zion, April 2012
Good Shepherd, April, 2020*

I have been a pastor since 1972. Of the hundreds of funerals that I officiated at, not one of those bodies is alive today. Not one! Unless God brings you back to life after you die, you remain dead. Jesus was dead. No one thought that Jesus would come back to life after the events of Good Friday.

The Jewish church leaders hoped that Jesus would come not back to life although they were nervous because Jesus said He would. To make sure that the disciples would not steal His body and then claim that Jesus had risen from death, Pilate sent some soldiers to guard the grave of Jesus.

The followers of Jesus were nervous, too. They thought the Jewish religious leaders might arrest them and put them to death as they had put Jesus to death. So the followers of Jesus went into hiding.

Early Sunday morning, some women said they had seen Jesus alive! But no really believed them. Perhaps those women just imagined they had seen Jesus!

It was later in the day as two men began their walk to Emmaus.

When someone dies, their life's history is over, and whatever relationship we had with that person moves from the present tense to the past tense. We begin to treasure past memories. It must have been like that with these two men and their relationship with Jesus. Let's walk with these men and see what happens when Jesus walks with them and talks to them. We will see that:

God's Word was right: Jesus is alive!

The morning report of the women who had gone to the tomb was amazing. Peter and John had gone to the grave, but not much else was happening. The followers of Jesus from Emmaus decided to go home. The time it took to walk seven miles would

give the men some time to talk things over.

As they walked, Jesus joined them, and made it impossible for the men to recognize Jesus. Jesus asked the men what they were talking about. He pretended to know nothing about the events of the past few days because He wanted to teach them important truths. These men needed to know that God's Word had the right answers to their questions.

Perhaps these men were new to the Christian faith and hadn't read the Scripture. Jesus said, How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things...?

So Jesus began to teach these men basic Christian truth:

1. Perhaps Jesus began with Zechariah's prophecy (9) that the King would come riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.
2. Perhaps Jesus reminded them of Isaiah's words (53) that said Jesus would be stricken, smitten, and afflicted.
3. Perhaps Jesus turned to Psalm 22 and pointed out the words of David that compared the people around the cross to dogs surrounding their victim.
4. Perhaps, quoting that same psalm, Jesus reminded those men of the words Jesus spoke from the cross, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
5. Perhaps Jesus would have spoken of the soldiers as they gambled for Jesus' clothes.

The walk to Emmaus would have taken about two hours. Each step would have been a pleasure as those men listened to and learned from God's Word. Each step could have brought to mind some of the prophecies that had been fulfilled. Jesus could have told them about:

1. The betrayal of Judas – Psalm 41
2. The 30 pieces of silver – Zechariah 11
3. The false witnesses – Psalm 27
4. The crucifixion with the criminals – Isaiah 53
5. Jesus buried in the tomb of a rich man – Isaiah 53

6. The resurrection of Jesus – Psalm 16 or Job 19.

What did these men learn? What would we have learned? We would have learned that all we need to know about our Savior's death and resurrection was found in the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus died as the Scriptures foretold, and Jesus rose from the dead as Scripture foretold. True faith believes the truth.

It is good for us to know that all we need for this life and our future life is found in God's Word.

1. When we feel alone, God's Word shows us that Jesus is always with us – even to the end of time! - Matt. 28
2. When we find that troubles are mounting up daily in our lives, God's Word reminds us that all things work out for our good and for God's glory! - Romans 8
3. When life seems out of control, God's Word reminds us that Jesus controls everything. - Matt. 28
4. When we face the death of a loved one, or face it ourselves, Scripture reminds us of the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday which show that God forgives us for Jesus' sake, and because Jesus lives after He died, we also will live after we die! - John 14

In the Bible, Jesus walks with us and He talks to us. He reminds us to:

- love others as Christian brothers and sisters – 1 Jn. 4
- encourage others – 1 Jn. 5
- be humble, gentle, and patient with others – 1 Thess. 5
- forgive others just as God has forgiven us – Mt. 6
- It's all **here!**

As Jesus spoke to these men, the Holy Spirit was strengthening their faith and comforting them. As they entered Emmaus, Jesus acted as though He was going to walk farther. But the men urged Jesus to stay with them.

They sat down to eat. Jesus took bread, said a prayer of thanks, broke the bread and began to hand it to them. They immediately recognized the Lord – and Jesus disappeared!

What a wonderful day it had been for those men! They had left Jerusalem with heavy hearts. They had learned from the Lord that the events of the past few days fulfilled the promises of God in the Scriptures. They were now happy. Jesus was alive!

Our new friends returned to Jerusalem! They had good news to tell! What a great day it had turned out to be!

We have walked with Jesus today. Scripture tells us that Jesus is alive and that death is not the end of things. Jesus walks with us every day. He speaks to us through His Word. He rules all things for our good. Jesus' resurrection means that we will live with our Lord even though we might die.

We sometimes worry about our present life and our future, but we don't have to worry! Jesus is alive. He is our living Savior! He is our hope for this life and the life to come!

As we walk through life, the resurrection of Jesus puts a spring in our step and speeds our walk along life's highway. At the end of that road, Jesus will invite us into His home. All this, because Jesus lives!

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