

JESUS, ONE ON ONE

THE RISEN JESUS REVEALED 4/9/2023

LUKE 24:13-35

MAIN POINT

Today's message will be on Jesus' personal interaction with people. (From the gospel of Luke).

One person at a time, One conversation at a time, One act of kindness at a time. Jesus taught us the importance of focusing on the person in front of us. Throughout the gospel of Luke, we see a record of Jesus personal interactions with a variety of people. He demonstrated that impacting others begins by focusing on the person in front of you. Following His example, we learn to focus on one person at a time, engaging in one conversation at a time, demonstrating one act of kindness at a time.

The lesson will focus on: Jesus drew near to His disciples and revealed His identity to them.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Name one thing in day-to-day life that utterly confuses you (for example: how the Internet works, how to figure out what's wrong with your car, how to master a certain recipe, or why your kids refuse to listen).

Now think about Christianity. What questions or doubts have you heard people express about Jesus or His resurrection? From where do these questions most often come?

Any number of things in life can be a source of confusion for us, and these things either leave us frustrated with a desire to quit, to doubt, to be curious, or to learn more. Christianity raises many questions in people's minds, and it is not uncommon to have conversations with people who are confused about who Jesus is. Jesus' encounter with the two men on the road to Emmaus helps us see that when we study Scripture, we learn who Jesus is. However, we don't go to the Scriptures to know more about Jesus, but to know Jesus Himself.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:13-24.

It's astounding that on the very morning of the resurrection, Jesus intentionally sought out two men on the road as they walked to Emmaus. The fact that the two men were arguing indicates there was no agreement about what had occurred. Even Peter, who had run to the tomb and had seen that it was empty, remained skeptical (Luke 24:15). Jesus listened, asked questions, and engaged them in conversation as they walked together.

As the disciples walked to Emmaus, they “talked and discussed” the events of the past few days (v. 15). What do you suppose they were talking about?

These disciples said they were “hoping that He was the One who was about to redeem Israel” (v. 21). What do you think they meant by this? What caused them to doubt? Why would it have been difficult for followers of Jesus to grasp His true mission?

The two travelers acknowledged Jesus as a prophet. His disciples, however, expected more. Like other Jews of the day, they wanted a Messiah who would exert authority in the political realm. The death of Jesus appeared to vanquish that hope for them and caused them to doubt. At this point, the disciples still misunderstood Jesus' purpose. They knew about Jesus, but had missed crucial pieces of Jesus' identity. Jesus offered freedom for people enslaved by sin. This deliverance trumped any temporary military victory, but the disciples had yet to fully grasp this.

Verse 15 says, “Jesus Himself came near and began to walk along with them.” What does this tell us about the pursuing heart of Christ and His longing to reveal Himself to us?

Why do some people find it hard to accept Jesus' resurrection as fact? Should these people at least be willing to consider it a possibility? Explain.

These disciples heard the report of an empty tomb, but they struggled to understand what that meant, especially without a body. The tomb without Jesus' body only left these disciples feeling more confused. Like many people today, the disciples were confused and disappointed because they didn't have all the facts; they had an incomplete grasp of Jesus' mission.

As the men began to describe their understanding of the events that had taken place, what did they say they had hoped for in verse 21? Did the men grasp what had taken place? Explain.

The way the men described Jesus showed they lacked understanding of Christ's real identity and what had transpired in the previous day's events. While they referred to Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, and that He was a prophet and miracle worker, there was no mention that He was the Son of God. There was also no mention of the unjust nature of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. Clearly, the disciples had not grasped Jesus' identity, nor had they understood the reason and necessity of His death.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:25-27.

Why did Jesus rebuke the two men? How did Jesus open their eyes to His mission?

To help these men understand who He is and why He came, Jesus used Scripture beginning with Moses and the Prophets to paint a more complete picture of His redemptive purposes. Presumably, He recalled sections from the Old Testament that supported His premise. Luke does not indicate which specific passages Jesus used. Jesus drew these two disciples back to the Bible's message about the Messiah. After citing references, Jesus interpreted for them the things concerning Himself. He used the Old Testament to remind them that glory follows suffering. The whole of the Old Testament points to God's working out His salvation purpose that culminated with Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

What difference does it make if we recognize that many Old Testament verses refer to the ministry and mission of Jesus the Messiah?

We do not need to speculate about matters that have been clearly answered in Scripture. The Bible answers many of the questions people have about Jesus, His identity, and His mission, and the Bible helps us know Jesus more intimately.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:30-35.

What feelings did the disciples experience while Jesus explained the Scriptures (v. 32)?

Have you experienced a time when your eyes were opened to the truth of who Jesus is and you were freed from doubt? If so, what brought you to that point? How has your life been different since then?

God is calling us to move beyond knowing facts about Jesus to a place of believing and trusting Him as Savior and Lord. God still uses the proclamation and study of His Word to bring clarity to Jesus' identity.

The men's encounter with Jesus and understanding of His identity transformed their slow hearts into hearts that were ablaze for Him. That's the difference between religion and having an intimate relationship with the Lord. As a result of encounter with Jesus, the men went immediately and returned to Jerusalem to tell the 11 apostles who they had seen and what they had been told.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How have you overcome confusion and doubt in your own walk with Christ?

This group should be a place where we can safely express our doubts and find guidance and confidence. Do you feel like it is? What are some adjustments we can make to move in that direction?

Who do you know that is wrestling with Jesus and maybe even some doubts right now? How could you show them Jesus as He is in the Scriptures?

PRAYER

Praise God for showing Himself to us through the person and work of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. Thank Him that we can turn to Him when we have doubts and find hope and comfort.

COMMENTARY

LUKE 24:13-35

24:13-14. Of the two disciples traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus that Sunday, one was named Cleopas (v. 18). He was possibly the husband of one of the women disciples who watched Jesus die on the cross (Jn 19:25). They had heard about the women's report and Peter's experience at the empty tomb (Lk 24:19-24) before leaving Jerusalem.

24:15-16. That the two men were arguing (Gk *suzeteo*; "to argue, question") about what had happened indicates that there was no agreement among Jesus' disciples about what had occurred and why. Like Peter at the tomb, many were amazed and yet unconvinced. It is not known how God prevented the two disciples from recognizing Jesus at this point, but He eventually "opened their eyes" to recognize Him (v. 31).

24:17-18. The men were discouraged (Gk *skuthropos*; "sad, sullen") and shocked that the stranger (Jesus) seemed to know nothing about what had happened the past few days, though it was the talk of all Jerusalem.

24:19-20. The description of Jesus by the two disciples is short on both insight and faith. Jesus is referred to in relation to His hometown (the Nazarene) and as a Prophet and miracle worker, but not as the Son of God. In addition, nothing is said about the unjust nature of Jesus' betrayal, trials, and crucifixion - just that the chief priests and leaders got Him sentenced to death and crucified. These disciples had not fully grasped Jesus' identity, nor had they understood the divine necessity of His death.

24:21-44. Jesus' death had dashed these men's hopes that He was the Messiah (the One... to redeem Israel), but the reports from the tomb that morning astounded them and made them wonder what was going on. The reports said: (1) the women disciples didn't find Jesus' body at the tomb, (2) the women had seen a vision of angels

proclaiming His resurrection, and (3) some male disciples had verified that the tomb was indeed empty.

24:25-29. The stranger (Jesus) rebuked the two disciples for not believing the OT prophecies about the Messiah, particularly about His suffering and following glory. Then, during the remainder of the walk to Emmaus, Jesus worked His way through all the major messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Bible (Moses and all the Prophets refers to the entire OT), carefully interpreting their meaning to His hearers. Then, when Jesus gave the impression that He was not going to stop in Emmaus, they invited Him to spend the night with them, probably so they could hear more.

24:30-33. During the evening meal, Jesus blessed and broke the bread. At that point, the two disciples were allowed to recognize Jesus, but He immediately disappeared from sight. Their first thought was to recall the things He had taught them as they walked along the road to Emmaus. With hearts ablaze, they ventured to Jerusalem through the darkness of night to meet with the apostles and tell them about their experience.

24:34-35. Unknown to the two disciples, the risen Christ had appeared to Simon Peter (an appearance mentioned elsewhere only in 1Co 15:5) some time earlier in the day. This was a decisive event for Peter and the church because he led the apostles and the early church in the years to come. Now, in a room full of eager listeners, these men told about their experiences on the road to Emmaus and the meal that followed. It had been a day of many wonders, but an even greater wonder would soon visit them all.