

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ"

Luke 24:13-35

Introduction: This past week I have heard many people make several statements about Easter. Some say that Easter is ruined this year because we cannot go to church. Some say it is like there will be no Easter this year because of what is going on. Others say it certainly does not feel like Easter in the midst of what we are experiencing.

But I am here to say that it is Easter because the grave is empty even if we cannot gather in our churches. Sure, it is great to gather on Easter Sunday but that is not the meaning of Easter. When we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the greatest event in the history of the world and that is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The Coronavirus cannot stop Easter. Satan could not stop Easter. The grave of Jesus Christ is empty, and we can celebrate the resurrection if we are locked in our homes or if we are confined to a hospital bed. Nothing changes the fact that our HOPE is alive and nothing or no one can ever take that away from us.

The resurrection is the foundation of the Christian life. It is what separates Christianity from all other faiths for no other religion worships a risen Savior.

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Peter reminds us that our HOPE is alive for our HOPE is in Jesus Christ and while He died on the cross for our sins and was buried, but the grave could not hold Him for on the 3rd day He arose from the dead and He is alive forever more and He promises us He is coming back to gather us together that where He is we shall be also.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Today I want to take you on a walk on that very day that Jesus was resurrected. It is the first day of the week and we are going to take a 7-mile journey from Jerusalem to

Emmaus. We are going to walk with 2 of Jesus disciples. Many believe they were husband and wife. We do not know this to be true, but we do know that one was named Cleopas. I believe that you will see that you and I have much in common with these 2 followers of Jesus Christ.

I. The Circumstances

Notice Luke 24:13-14

The Holy Spirit, through the pen of Luke, takes us right into the lives of these two disciples and they journeyed from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are discussing the events which have unfolded. The events which they are discussing are, the arrest, the conviction, the crucifixion and the death of Jesus Christ. They were two of His followers. They had listened to His teachings, they witnessed His miracles, and they heard His claims, that He was the Son of God. This was the Messiah that they had so long waited for. Based upon the writings of the Old Testament prophets they truly expected Him to overthrow the Roman Empire and usher in the promised Kingdom.

But others did not seem to grasp what they had grasped, and the religious leaders condemned Him to death and the Romans gave them the right to crucify Him. Their hopes and their dreams were shattered. How could this have happened? They were so looking forward to a great future and watching the Kingdom get ushered in. Now, instead the disciples feared for their own lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Some had locked themselves in secluded rooms hoping to escape any kind of persecution. If they crucified Him what would they do to those who followed after Him? In just a short amount of time their lives changed completely, and they could not understand what was happening. Their minds were full of concerns. What would tomorrow hold? What would the future be like? If Jesus was the Messiah, then how could God have allowed this to happen? Then there was the key question, "WHERE WOULD THEY EVER FIND HOPE AGAIN?"

Application:

I am sure that many who are listening can clearly identify with these two disciples. Your world has been shattered by what is happening today. You had hopes and dreams and plans but now they are on hold or they may have even been terminated completely. In just a short amount of time our world changed. People are shut in their homes; some states are handing out hefty fines for people who are doing drive in churches. You must careful plan your trips to the store to get necessities. Now in our nation you see people wearing masks whereas before we only seen this in pictures of other countries. The highways are barren, the stores are closed, and many have lost their jobs. Many ask the question, "How could this have happened?" So many today are asking the very questions these two disciples would have asked, "What does tomorrow hold?" "What will our future be like?" And there

is the big question asked by many in the world, "WHERE CAN WE EVER FIND HOPE AGAIN?"

II. The Companion

Notice Luke 24:15-16

As these two walked and talked together Jesus came along side and walked with them. Their eyes were holden meaning they were not able to know exactly who He was.

Application:

What a comfort this is for us today. As we face the pandemic in our world we are not alone if we know Jesus Christ as our Savior. He is ever with us no matter what it is that we face.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Isaiah 41:10-14

¹⁰ *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

¹¹ *Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.*

¹² *Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.*

¹³ *For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.*

¹⁴ *Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Psalm 91:1-6, 15

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² *I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

³ *Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*

⁴ *He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

⁵ *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;*

⁶ *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

¹⁵ *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

These are just a few of the verses that speak of the Lord's presence with us. We too are just like these two disciples in that many times our Lord shows up and we do not even realize it was Him until later. Our problem is that we become so consumed with the problem that we miss our Lord reaching out to us. Many times, He shows up in the life of another believer.

He is always there, and He will always walk with us through the trials and the storms of our lives. We are NEVER ALONE.

III. The Confusion

Notice Luke 24:17-19a

Let us not miss this very important conversation between Jesus and these two disciples. Jesus knew all about what was on their hearts. But He wanted them to take the time to pour out their hearts to Him.

Application:

Our Lord longs for the same thing from us also. What is on your heart? What are you feeling? What are you afraid of? Take it all to Him. We carry so much around in our hearts and we do not need to, for He wants us to give it to Him.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

If we were to search the Psalms, we would see that over and over the Psalmists cried unto the Lord in the times of trial. Let me show you one such example. It was David when he fled from his son Absalom.

Psalm 61:1-5

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

² *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

³ *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*

⁴ *I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.*

⁵ *For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.*

Notice Luke 24:19-24

These disciples knew that Jesus had died. They knew He was mighty in word and deed. They believed Him to be the Messiah. But He was crucified. Then they heard the report of the women. The tomb was empty and there were supposedly angels there who said He had risen. There were so many stories circulating that they did not know what to believe. They were truly in a state of confusion.

Application:

I can assure you that in our nation right now there is no lack of theories as to what is happening. Today you hear this and tomorrow you hear something different. There are thousands of theories circulating in our nation. No one knows what to believe so many are thoroughly confused. That is where these two disciples were at in Luke 24.

IV. The Comfort

Notice 24:25-27

As they talked Jesus took them back to the Old Testament and He explained how it was prophesied that He would die and rise again. The entire Old Testament was focused upon Him and therefore He taught them that day concerning what they had missed.

Application:

There are two applications that I want to consider here:

1. Someday we too will be taught by the Greatest Teacher ever. He will open the Scriptures and we shall then be able to see things which were hidden to us in this life. What a day that will be!!!
2. In the midst of all the confusion God was working His plan.

This is a great thought for today. In the midst of the Coronavirus God has a plan and this is working to bring His plan together. The arrest of Jesus Christ and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was all part of God's plan. It had to happen in order for our sins to be paid for.

In our day we do not understand all that is going on. We do not know who to believe in the midst of all the chaos, but we can be sure that God is in control and His plan will never be hindered. We also know based upon the Word of God that what is happening also working for our good.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

This situation in our day can in no way be used by the enemy to destroy US.

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

We cannot be dogmatic about what God is doing in our day with what is happening. We may not know until we get to our eternal home. But I believe we are safe to say that God is giving the world a prelude of what is yet to come in the Tribulation.

We can truly see the affects of panic upon a society. Therefore, we can fully understand how people will line up to get the MARK OF THE BEAST in the Tribulation. We can see how

people will turn upon their friends and their family members when they are in a state of panic. There are many parallels of what is to come.

The point is that God has a plan just as He did with the death of Jesus Christ and He is working out His plan.

V. The Constraining

Notice Luke 24:28-29

I love what is written here. These disciples did not want Jesus to leave for they found comfort for the trial in His Words. They longed to listen to what He had to say for His Words brought great comfort to their hearts.

Application:

There is much comfort for us that is found in God's Word.

Lamentations 3:22-26

²² *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

²⁴ *The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

²⁵ *The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*

²⁶ *It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

Notice Luke 24:30-33

Here we see what happens when we walk with our Lord. He sets our heart on fire.

Conclusion:

These two disciples were no given a living HOPE. Jesus was alive. They then turned around and walked the 7 miles back to tell the others of what they knew.

Don't let fear and your lack of understanding rob you of your joy. JESUS IS ALIVE. He is our HOPE not this world we are in. We don't know what is yet to come but I can tell you that whatever it is it will never take away our HOPE for He is alive.

1 Peter 1:3

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*