

"Finding Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ"**Luke 24**

Introduction: Last week in our morning message we walked along with Jesus and His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane on the way to the cross. In that walk we were able to see a little more of His love for each of us. Today in our message we are going to walk with Jesus and two of His disciples after the cross and after the resurrection to see some very important lessons that pertain to our lives.

I. The Confusion**Notice Luke 24:13-14**

These two verses as recorded by Luke are very interesting. Up to this point Luke has only told us of the empty tomb. There is no reference to Jesus' appearance to anyone. The first appearance mentioned by Luke is not to a famous Apostle, but instead the first appearance mentioned by Luke is to a couple of ordinary disciples.

As they journeyed to Emmaus that day, they were discussing the events that had transpired in Jerusalem. They had been there for the Passover and they were followers of Jesus Christ. They had a picture in their mind of what Jesus would accomplish but it never happened. They understood Him to be the Promised Messiah who had come to usher in the Kingdom. This would mean that based upon what the Old Testament tells us about the Kingdom, they were looking for Jesus to set up His throne in Jerusalem and rule. They were expecting perfect peace, justice, and judgment to be ushered in.

Isaiah 11:1-5

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

³ *And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

⁴ *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

⁵ *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*

They were looking forward to the end of the Gentile world powers as told by Daniel.

Daniel 2:44-45

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

⁴⁵ Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

When Jesus was crucified these two disciples lost all hope. I can imagine that they were as broken as John was in Revelation 5.

Revelation 5:1-4

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

³ And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

⁴ And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

The death and resurrection had no part in the vision of these disciples. This is why they missed the announcement that Jesus had made concerning His coming death. These two were very confused about what had unfolded. If Jesus were the Messiah and the leaders condemned Him to death then all hope was gone and Satan would forever be the god of this world.

Application:

Have you ever been in a situation where the events did not unfold like you had envisioned? These two had lost hope because of all that had happened. Have you ever lost hope? Have you ever been in a situation and you had a vision in your mind of how it would go and it started out great but then it all fell apart? That is where these two are. They may have

been in Jerusalem on Psalm Sunday when the crowds cried, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." But then midweek it all turned. Is that where you are? Are you here today looking for hope? Let me tell you that there is hope for you.

II. The Companion

Notice Luke 24:15-16

As they walked on their journey the Lord joined them but they were unaware that it was Him. Let me use this to show you who Jesus draws near to.

1. People who have been let down by religious leaders.

Notice Luke 24:18-20

2. People who are confused by other believers.

Notice Luke 24:22-24

3. People who have lost hope because of things that have happened.

Notice Luke 24:18

All of this made no sense to them. The Lord was able to calm the storms and to raise the dead so why did He let them kill Him?

Application:

There have been many people who have lost hope because of things that have happened. A child dies. A Dad dies while his health looked to be fine. You lose your job when you thought it was going to carry you to retirement. Many people have lost hope because of things that have happened. But rest assured the Lord is near.

What a great lesson for us in this scene. When we are broken and discouraged, and without hope, we can be sure that our Lord is always there with us.

Psalm 34:17-18

¹⁷ *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

¹⁸ *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*

We are not always aware of His presence with us and there is a reason as we shall see, but we can be sure that when we go through the valleys of life our Lord is right beside us.

Psalm 23:1-4

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

³ *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Isaiah 43:2-3

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:*

III. The Cause

Why had these two lost hope? It was because of the religious leaders, the reports of the others, and because of the things that had happened. But there was a bigger reason why they lost hope.

Notice Luke 24:25

The problem was within the heart. They were slow to believe. They had the verses in the Old Testament that spoke of the resurrection but the death burial and resurrection did not fit their vision.

Psalms 16:9-10

⁹ *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.*

¹⁰ *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Job 19:25-27

²⁵ *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:*

²⁶ *And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

IV. The Cure

Notice Luke 24:26-27

Jesus now begins to draw their attention to Himself. They had lost sight of Jesus in the midst of all that had happened and now He gets them pointed in the right direction to restore their hope.

Application:

If you have lost hope because of leaders, or other believers or the circumstances that are happening around you then your focus is not on Jesus Christ. You need to get your focus back upon Him. You need to look at what He has done and what He promises. Let us notice something about the Old Testament saints mentioned in Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11:13

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

V. The Choice

Notice Luke 24:28-29

He was going to go on but they made the choice to abide with Him. It will be the time they spend with Him that will restore their hope. Notice that they constrained Him.

Application:

When is the last time you longed for fellowship with the Lord to the point that you begged Him to come and stay? It is time with our risen Lord that will give us hope in this dark sin filled world.

VI. The Connection

Notice Luke 24:30-32

Jesus did not reveal Himself on the road because He did not want them to look to an experience for their hope. He opened their eyes as they broke bread and then they connected this with the Word that He spoke to them while they walked. Their hope was to be found in fellowship with Jesus and He would be revealed through the Word.

Conclusion:

Where are you looking for hope? The only True hope that lasts is found in the resurrected Jesus. He is alive and the more time we spend in His Word feeding upon Him and seeking fellowship with Him the more hope we will have.

OUR HOPE IS IN JESUS CHRIST AND HE IS KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD.