

Introduction:

- Luke 24:13-33 Happy Resurrection Day!
- Anyone here this morning who has ever had a bad day? A dream shattered, mind racing, heart heavy. All of that is a part of life but...there is a way out! Weeping may last a night but Joy comes in the morning! For the disciples, weeping was for two nights but joy came in the morning!
- Setting: It's Resurrection Sunday, and two disciples, Cleopas and another, don't know the full story, yet. They're walking seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, their hearts heavy with grief. Jesus, their hoped-for Messiah, is dead—or so they think. Rumors of an empty tomb (v. 22-24) only add confusion. They're discouraged, disillusioned, and heading away from Jerusalem, the place of promise. People often move away from God when discouraged and disillusioned.
- Here is what we know on the road to Emmaus, Jesus walks with us in our despair, reveals Himself through His Word, and transforms our hearts to live in and share His resurrection hope.
- There are three things I want to look at this resurrection morning: A heart fill with disappointment. A heart filled with revelation. A heart filled with Faith.

I. A Heart Filled With Disappointment (Luke 24:13-24) A heart filled with disappointment is a sad thing. But what gives the believer joy is that we carry the capacity to bring change like Jesus does in this passage.

A. Negativity never travels alone. It always find someone to go with it.

1. Two disciples are reflecting on the events of the last three days.
2. Their conclusion is seen in verses: (19-24). Here is what they tell Jesus as He sneaks up along side of them. NOTE: Jesus kept them from recognizing Him (verse 16).
 - a) Sometimes God gets us talking so that we can hear how we sound like.
 - b) Sometimes God hides His presence to teach us trust.
 - c) Sometimes God sees fit to keep things from us until its proper time, for greater impact. They say to Jesus...powerful positive things.
3. Jesus of Nazareth was a mighty prophet!
 - a) Carried the word of the Lord!
 - b) He was powerful in deeds/signs and wonders!
 - c) He was powerful in Word before God and man.
 - d) But the chief priests had Him killed! [Four powerful "Yes!"" One negative. The negative cancelled it all. They said,...
4. We had hoped (vs 21)...Let's ask ourselves...
 - a) What took away their hope? What takes away your hope?
(1) What they saw took their hope away. They expected a political deliverer not

a suffering servant.

(2) What they heard and experienced took away their hope. "Crucify! Crucify!"

(3) The lies that they believed took away their hope. What lies?

(a) He is dead. The angels said, 'He is not dead! He is just not here.'

(b) He must not have been the Son of God.

(c) The power of the religious system was stronger than Him.

(4) The lies that you believe will steal your hope. I.e. Abraham considered not his own body nor Sarah's. He believed. Rom 4:19

B. Negativity produces fruit. And dwelling on negativity produces bad fruit in your life.

1. The fruit of disappointment. Disappointment - is the "defeat or failure of expectation, hope, wish, desire or intention," Webster 1828. It build a mindset of defeat. Their expectation was that Jesus would rise to power and overthrow Rome and usher in the Kingdom of God. That expectation was defeated at the cross.

2. The fruit of disillusionment - "a feeling of being disappointed and unhappy because of discovering the truth about something or someone that you liked or respected." Cambridge Dictionary. They loved Jesus, He was 'bigger than life' yet he was totally humiliated, led to the slaughter and died (a fact). They were disillusioned because all the promises that they had heard from Jesus suddenly were gone.

3. The fruit of discouragement - "the state of having lost your confidence or enthusiasm for something" Cambridge Dictionary.

a) The events of the passover destroyed their courage and their confidence.

b) They watched Jesus be imprisoned, beaten, scourged, crucified and put in a tomb. A tomb is most final...at least that is how they understood it.

4. The Fruit of Despair - the feeling that there is no hope and that you can do nothing to improve a difficult or worrying situation Cambridge dictionary. They had no hope! Their hope was in Jesus and now he is dead and the rumor is: someone stole His body.

C. If you put disappointment, disillusionment, discouragement and despair together you are going to feel pretty sad. *"And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad."* (Luke 24:17, ESV)

1. Sad - *skythrōpós* means "serious- or sad-looking" with various nuances, e.g., gloominess, solemnity, depression, sorrow, or melancholy Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W.

(1985). In Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume (p. 1053). W.B. Eerdmans.

2. Their countenance told the story. Sad.

D. When you are in that place of discouragement you need a revelation of who Jesus is!

II. A Heart Filled With Revelation (Luke 24:25-27) Jesus opens the scripture!

A. Jesus now moves to see that their hearts are changed and become full of faith!

1. He calls them out! He lovingly and gently rebukes them: Foolish and slow of

heart.

2. Foolish - Gr. *anóētos*. in the more common active tense it means "unwise," "irrational," or "foolish," with a moral as well as an intellectual nuance. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 638). W.B. Eerdmans.
3. "Slow of heart to believe" - slow =dull, not so swift. Of heart - understanding.
- B. They missed the OT big picture: Messiah is the suffering servant. (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22) So what does Jesus do? He kindly starts teaching them. They should have known the very words he was teaching them!
 1. He takes them back to the Word. In your place of despair you must get back to the Word of God.
 2. *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."* (Luke 24:27, ESV)
 - a) Genesis to Malachi points to Jesus!
 - b) The Passover lamb, the suffering servant, the promised king—all Him.
- C. The Word of God has power to change the direction of your life. I can say it this way too:
 1. Revelation of Jesus has the power to change the direction and the course of your life.
 2. The Word reveals the will of God. And God's will for you is amazing!
 3. Jesus gave them the word so that they could see/understand! The word brings illumination into our lives.
 - a) John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word.
 - b) John 1:14 the word became flesh
 4. Jesus goes on to stay with them at the end of the journey. And it is while breaking the bread with them that their eyes are opened to who He is! (30-32)
 5. The Word prepares their hearts, and in this intimate moment their eyes are fully opened! They recognize Him! And He vanishes! And their hearts are...

III. A Heart Filled With Faith Luke 24:28-33)

- A. *They said to each other: "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while He opened the scriptures?"* Statement of hunger for more. Maybe the reason they implored Him to stay!
 1. Their "burning hearts" (v. 32) reflect the Holy Spirit's work through the Word, igniting faith and understanding (John 16:13-14).
 2. The Word revealed Jesus to them and it changed the course of their lives.
- B. In a moment with a heart filled with faith, the direction of their lives were changed! They ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others! *"He is risen indeed!"*
 1. Joy, urgency and mission fill them! No longer despair, discouragement!
 2. Encountering the risen Jesus changes their direction, from despair to

proclamation.

C. They had to tell somebody! Church we have to tell somebody about Jesus!

1. We can't stay quiet.

D. Why don't you invite Jesus in this morning...into your life.

1. These disciples asked Jesus to come in and stay.

2. Why don't you do the same...Invite Him into your despair. Invite Him in to your discouragement.

3. The church is made up of people like this. The direction of their lives changed in a moment of faith!

4. If you have drifted from the faith return to your 'Jerusalem!' Join up with your spiritual family. Live the resurrection!

5. This is not just their story it is our story today...It can be your story.

Conclusion:

- Jesus gave them the best heartburn ever! Often Jesus walks with us when we can't see Him.
- Jesus is near, as Psalm 34:18 promises: *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted."* He is closer than you think.
 - On the road to Emmaus, Jesus meets us in our despair, reveals Himself through His Word, and transforms our hearts to live and share His resurrection hope.
 - The disciples went from downcast to declaring. From sadness to joy!
- This is the good news: Jesus isn't just a historical figure; He's the risen Savior, walking with you. He bore your sins on the cross, rose to defeat death, and offers you life. If you've never trusted Him, invite Him into your heart today.
- In the fall of 1979, a discouraged, disillusioned, despairing young man started reading one chapter a night out of a Bible. Filled with doubt yet with a heart burning. Thinking about those words he read. It hit him one night. Jesus revealed himself to him. And he said, John 6:68 *"To whom shall we go, you hold the words of eternal life."* That young man was me. And it can be you today!