

Road to Emmaus

Prayer

Good Morning,

This morning I feel that it is appropriate to talk about the events following Easter. Jesus walked with his disciples, right along side them. Can you imagine how amazing it must have been to watch him heal the sick, the lame and the blind? How about seeing Jesus cast out demons, walk on water and raise the dead?

I think we can all agree that it would have been such an amazing time walking in the incarnate presence of our Lord. Yet... Good Friday came and it was a really bad three days.

Now Jesus had said to his disciples that in three days he would rise. He told them to go into All-the-world and preach the gospel and make disciples of him.

This morning I am going to ask something of each one of you. I would like you to place yourself in the role of a disciple of Christ. I want you to imagine what it would be like.

It has been a bad three days. You have witnessed the hope of the world crucified on a cross. He told you this would happen, but the reality is hard to deal with. Let's say that Jesus amazing ministry was three years long and you witnessed his amazing works. Your journey with him has been fun and exciting. At times you felt inspired and uplifted at other times he enlightened the scriptures to you. These were life-changing events. It was a hard walk but so rewarding. Yet, now the savior had died and was laid to rest. It kind of seems like all that had been... all the good times, the fun, and the excitement would be gone. But hey, he said we would have the Holy Spirit and the Jobs not done, but it will just not be the same. These disciple of Jesus were sad.

If you will... let's imagine that you were in ministry along side the savior. You personally participated. There was lots to be done helping, singing, talking to people, but it feels like a page has turned and it was now all in the past... Jesus had gone to the Father.

Can you imagine that you might be a little bit down about your task for the savior but without his incarnate presence with you, walking with you and talking with you each day?

Well... the events of the crucifixion were over and two men were travelling on the road to Emmaus.

Turn with me to Luke 24:13-34

The Road to Emmaus

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

And He said to them, “ What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

And He said to them, “ What things?”

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

Then He said to them, “ O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

The Disciples 'Eyes Opened

Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, “ Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

And they said to one another, “ Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!

This morning I am going to share something deeply personal. It grieves my heart when I see defeated disciples. Have you ever seen people who are in the church who seem defeated? I am talking about Christians who were once were Sunday school teachers or worship team members. Some participated in the kitchen or general help. Still others found joy in giving to each other and to support the ministry.

What happened?

- Did someone offend them?
- Did they become sad and discouraged?
- Did they become weary in well doing?
- Did they get too busy and their church involvement got cut?
- Did they pray and not get the answer they received?
- Did they somehow get the notion that they are too young or too old?
- Did something horrible happen to them and now they blame God?
- Did the fire simply go out?

Now we know that these men on the road to Emmaus grew sad... The amazing chapter of their life with Jesus seemed ended.

Here is what I want you to grasp most of all this morning...

Because they did not see Jesus incarnate they became saddened. If left in this state this can we foresee that perhaps they might even get wrapped up in some other activity or perhaps even grow cold towards the mission? Is it possible they could even fall away?

Did you notice that they did not recognize him? Why do you think Jesus did that?

Why do you think he then opened their eyes once again so they would know him?

My friends it is because the Word of God is provided as a teacher and an example for us... Jesus knows that his people can become sad without him in their lives. He leaves us with this lesson so that we know this is a danger and that we will recognize him when his presence is with us. When we give up faith or only see Jesus as an idea or a concept, we can easily become sad. When we take offense, we can become sad. Did you know that unresolved anger repressed and turned inward turns into depression and that depression takes the joy out of what you used to love to do?

So what happens to those who find themselves in this state?

- They become sad and ultimately depressed
- They become inactive and disengaged
- They become convicted by the Holy Spirit about their inactivity
- They will not repent but become hard

- They gossip or slander others in the church
- They sometimes get mad at whoever is preaching
- They may quit attending or even try to take ungodly control

This is the very last thing I ever want to see here in Salmo.

I urge each person here to tend the flame in their heart reverently and carefully. I urge each person here to pray and listen to Gods voice so that you know it when he is speaking to you. I urge you to read his word as it is a light unto your feet and a lamp unto your path. It is the ultimate authority on living. Finally, and arguably most importantly, it is written to each of you personally.

These two men fell into sadness because they could no longer see Jesus. What a desperately sad state to be in...

I also want you to note here that the reason for their sadness was totally justified...

In fact... I will be so bold as to state that everyone who has fallen away from Christ believes in their heart that they have a good reason.

So why then did Jesus ask them why they were sad?
In verse 21 – 24 CEV we read:

We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened. Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either

- Can you hear the cynicism in their words?
- Can you see where they were upset because God didn't do things as they had expected?

So this morning Let us look at the message that Jesus gave them...

He said: "*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?*"

Jesus said the problem was within them...

But he didn't leave it there and neither will any of us.

In verses 32-34 we read: '*And they said to one another, " Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to*

us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

My friends, revival isn't all night tent meetings. It is a rekindling of the fire of God in each and every person's heart in the church. This morning as we go into communion, let us examine our hearts and recognizing Jesus, let us allow our hearts to burn within us."

Prayer