

Jacob Hanson

05-05-2019

Sermon Title: "The Road to Emmaus"

Prelude

UMH #322 "Up from the Grave He Arose"

UMH #526 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Responsive Reading: UMH #762-#763 vs. 1-3, vs. 8-12

Greeting

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Prayer of Confession (None with Communion)

Children's Message: (None with Communion)

Apostle's Creed

Luke 24:13-27

Genesis 12:1-3

Deuteronomy 18:15

2nd Samuel 7:12-16

Isaiah 7:14, 9:1, 42:1, 53:4

Danial 7:13

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Luke 24:28-35

Sermon: "The Road to Emmaus"

Lord's Prayer (Moved to after Communion)

Sermon Song: UMH #395 "Take Time to Be Holy"

Communion: 1st Corinthians 11:23-34

(End Communion with Lord's Prayer)

Offering

Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

UMH #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements/Dismissal

Postlude

Questions:

- 1) On the Road to Emmaus two disciples encounter Jesus, but they do not recognize Him. What is their first conversation with Jesus about?
- 2) Jesus walks through with these two disciples the prophecies and teachings regarding the Messiah. Why would He do this? What are some of these prophecies?
- 3) The Road to Emmaus was a life changing encounter for these two disciples. Why is their encounter important for us today?

Memory Verse: Luke 24:31 “Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.”

Weekly Challenge: Just as the disciples go and relay their encounter with Christ to others, share your walk with Christ with at least one other person this week.

Pastor Jacob Hanson
05/05/2019

Opening Prayer

Good Morning, and welcome here to Kasson/Pleasant Corners UMC. I am Pastor Jacob Hanson, and it is a joy to be here with you today to talk once again about the resurrected Christ. Easter Sunday is now behind us, and for the month of May we are going to be talking about the Risen Christ, Jesus who rose from the dead. What He did, what He taught, His impact, and His ascension are the things we will look at. Last week we set the stage for this by talking about the proof we have for the resurrected Christ (historical Jesus, the empty tomb, the disciples' lives), and this week we look at the walk to Emmaus.

If you were here last week, we mentioned that one of the major reasons we can trust that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead is by what Jesus's disciples' reactions were. All of them, with the exception of John, went to their graves proclaiming Christ crucified. They didn't gain anything in this world... fame, money, women, etc. So either they all decided to lie and go to their deaths to hold to this lie, or they actually did see the resurrected Christ. For our reading today, we took a look at one of those times where they had an encounter with Jesus risen from the dead. Jesus's teachings to them and His breaking of bread proved to these two disciples on the road that He was alive.

Our readings from the Old Testament this morning have a purpose in the story of the walk to Emmaus. We read in Luke 24:27 “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the scriptures.” The historical Emmaus, where these guys were walking to, was about a fifteen mile journey from Jerusalem. This would have been a fairly long journey on foot, and from what we can gather in our scripture this morning it was going to be at least an expected two day long journey for the disciples and Jesus. However during this first day’s journey, when Jesus shows up, He goes through with them “all the things concerning Himself in the scriptures.” Our several smaller readings this morning cover the kinds of things that Jesus would have been sharing with His disciples here. This is by no means all of the scripture dealing with the Messiah, but it at least gives you a piece of the evidence Jesus gives these men before opening their eyes as to what the Messiah must do and go through.

Our first chunk of scripture from the Old Testament out of Genesis deals with the very heart of the Jewish people, Abraham. Abraham, when He is promised to be a part of God’s plan, is told that through His lineage “all the families of the earth will be blessed.” What does this have to do with Jesus? Well Jesus opens the floodgates so that all who would call upon Him (Greek or Jew, slave or free, etc.) would be saved. The Lord’s plan was always that all the nations would be blessed through the Jewish people... of whose line Jesus comes.

Our second piece expands upon the first, namely it tells us from where the Messiah is going to come. Deuteronomy 18:15 read “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.” This is Moses speaking here,

stating that from the people of Israel will come a great prophet, one who they will listen to. While in Jesus's lifetime many struggled to listen to Him, it is important to note how many people worldwide call upon Him now. Many listen to Jesus, and He again comes from the nation of Israel as was prophesized. In many, many ways, Jesus looks specifically like Moses with the actions He performs and the teachings that He gives. If any of you remember back about a month ago when we talked about the Transfiguration, Jesus actually talks to Moses and Elijah (the two greatest Hebrew prophets) shortly before He goes to the cross. The implication here is that Jesus is much like Moses, although He is in fact a great prophet (the Messiah) than Moses is. Both our first and our second readings from the Old Testament come from the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. While all God-filled scripture is of course revered in ancient Judaism, nothing is/was more important than the Torah. For Jesus to give scriptures related to Himself from the Torah would be akin to Him showing that from the roots upward He is involved. These teachings about Jesus do not stop with the Torah, but rather follow all throughout the rest of the Old Testament as well.

In 2nd Samuel 7:12-16 we read through a promise given to David. Way back in August or September of last year we actually went through this scripture here within our churches, so if this sounds familiar that's great! This promise that is given to David is that a ruler from David's lineage will come who will rule forever. If you read through the beginning chapters of Matthew and Luke, they begin with the genealogy of Jesus. That is there to show that Jesus descends from the tribe of Judah directly through David to Himself. Jesus fulfills this prophecy that an everlasting kingdom under His rule will be established. We as Christians wholeheartedly affirm this. Thinking back just the Apostle's Creed which we read most Sundays, one of the

things that we affirm is that “He sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall to judge the quick and the dead.” Jesus’s kingdom, which is established through His death and resurrection, will have no end. This fulfills the promise given to David, the greatest king in Israelite history. Beyond this, in the book of Isaiah there are many prophecies dealing with the Messiah as well.

Isaiah 7:14 states that the Messiah will come from a virgin, which of course Jesus did. Isaiah 9:1 states that the Lord will make a region of Israel called Galilee “glorious.” Nazareth, Jesus’s hometown, is in Galilee, as is a large number of the places that Jesus visited and taught. Isaiah 42:1 states that the Lord will put His Spirit upon His chosen one. When Jesus is baptized, the Spirit descends upon Him “like a dove” and those who were present heard the Lord’s voice saying “This is My Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Isaiah 53:4 is one part of the narrative given in that entire chapter, outlining how the Messiah was to die a horrible death of crucifixion for the sins of the world. Think about hearing this from the perspective of the two disciples that Jesus is proclaiming these teachings too. They witnessed ALL of these prophecies come true in Christ’s life. Before their eyes they saw all of these things. It is no wonder they were confused when Jesus was killed, because Jesus’s pedigree to be that ruler who was to rule forever as God’s chosen one was very high. Keep that in mind as we finish with three more teachings about the Messiah from the Old Testament that would likely have been relayed to these disciples by Jesus.

In Danial 7:13 we read that one “like the Son of Man” (another name for the Messiah, the Christ) came up to the “Ancient of Days.” “Ancient of Days” is another name for the Lord. This may seem strange to us, but it tells us something deeply true about Jesus. Only a sinless and

spotless person could stand before the Lord without being stricken down without a sacrifice of some kind. Jesus, therefore, must be sinless and spotless... a trait that only the Lord possesses. Also, the fact that He is “like the Son of Man” shows that He is human. I hope you are seeing the importance of this... Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Our reading from Micah 5:2 may not be as earth-shattering as that of Daniel 7:13, but it does help provide us some practical proof that Jesus is who He says He is. Micah 5:2 states that the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem, and that His ruling comes from the days of eternity. Jesus is born in Bethlehem, which you likely remember from Christmas. Also, because He is fully God and fully man, it is true that His ruling comes from the days of eternity. Our final Old Testament reading also accomplishes the same goal as Micah 5:2, in proving that Jesus is who He says He is.

Zechariah 9:9 states that the King was to ride into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, being just and endowed with salvation. Jesus, on Palm Sunday, does just that. He rides into Jerusalem upon a donkey, with the ultimate goal being going up to Golgatha a few short days later to die for the sins of mankind.

All of these prophecies regarding the Messiah, from the Torah through the end of the Old Testament, all point to Jesus being the Christ. Jesus, in relaying all of these teachings to the two disciples upon the road to Emmaus, gives them the evidence needed to change their lives forever. But they don't yet understand that while Jesus fulfills all of these prophecies, that He also lives. They don't yet see that Jesus, their King, their promised Messiah, their Hope, is alive. This brings us to our final reading for this morning, the second half of the road to Emmaus.

We read in Luke 24:28-35 about the moment that changed the hearts of these disciples for forever. As they approached the end of their journey they implored Jesus to stay with them, even though they didn't yet know it was Jesus. When Jesus stays with them He breaks bread and blesses it, giving them communion, and we read that their eyes were opened. Jesus disappears from their sight, but in their joy they run all the way back to Jerusalem to share the news that Jesus in fact lives. A message that they will share until their deaths. In encountering the risen Christ during communion with Him (communion is also known as "the Presence" for a reason) after having heard all the proof that they themselves had seen come true in Jesus's life, their faith was confirmed. This brings us to our final piece for this morning, our final point of discussion. That is, what does the road to Emmaus mean for us today?

Here in our lives we often wish for a moment like these disciples had where we would see the resurrected Christ. We hope and pray that the Lord would reveal Himself to us in our times of trouble, to confirm that He is who He said He is. We may never have a moment like these guys had, however we can learn from their experience and rest assured that our Savior is real and does live. The proof from the Old Testament, the many prophecies that Jesus fulfilled as the Messiah, should not be ignored by us. The resurrection of our Savior, as told in the Gospels and confirmed through historical analysis, should also give us peace that He who we serve is present and alive. Finally, a point that is especially pertinent for us this morning, we should recognize that Jesus does reveal Himself to us through the two sacraments He left behind as tangible/physical reminders of Him. Baptism and Communion are not just neat things that we do, but rather are physical reminders that the

faith we hold is real. These are physical reminders for us to sit and contemplate upon our Creator, to remember that this truth we hold is legitimate. The proofs that were given to these two disciples upon the road to Emmaus were enough to keep them focused upon the Lord even into their deaths. They knew that their Savior lived and does live. We should take a cue from them, and remember that truth ourselves today. Would you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

May Plans: Jesus After the Resurrection

May 5th “The Road to Emmaus”

Luke 24:13-35

May 12th “The Commissioning of the Saints”

Mark 16:14-20

Matthew 28:16-20

May 19th “The Change in Peter”

Luke 22:54-62

John 20:1-9

John 21:18-25

Acts 5:27-42

May 26th “The Ascension”