

The Experience of a Lifetime

Series: Easter

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Scripture

Luke 24:13-32 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. [14] And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. [15] While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. [16] But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. [17] And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. [18] One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" [19] And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, [20] and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. [21] "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. [22] "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, [23] and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. [24] "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." [25] And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! [26] "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" [27] Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

[28] And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. [29] But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. [30] When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. [31] Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. [32] They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Engage

When you are really down, do you want to be alone or with others? When did you last experience a broken dream or a broken heart?

Discuss

The Point: The resurrection changes everything.

1. What do you think caused these men to leave Jerusalem? Fear?, disillusionment? Overload from what Jesus had gone through?, loneliness and wanting to get back home?, despair after losing their hope along with their spiritual leader?
2. Why didn't they recognize their best friend and teacher?
3. What was it that opened their eyes and caused them to recognize Him?
4. What helps you recognize Jesus alongside you when you are down?
5. If Jesus were to walk with you for a few miles today, what would you talk to Him about? Struggles? Family? Job?

6. What does the resurrected Jesus need to change in your life? Your spiritual vision? Unbelief? Discouragement? Loneliness? Other?
7. How would you describe your walk with Christ right now? Up and down? Growing? Very close? Slipping? Exciting? Other?
8. What were the two men talking about as they walked along the road to Emmaus? What tones of voice do you hear in what they say? What hopes have been dashed? What plans might they be making?
9. Why did Jesus do a roundabout Bible study with the men instead of just revealing who He was immediately?
10. Why did Jesus act as if He was going on further?
11. How does it make you feel when you think about what God has done for you through the death of Jesus on the cross?
12. When did you come to realize that Jesus died for you and for the forgiveness of your sins?
13. Luke is telling us that Jesus' resurrection changes everything. What does the resurrection change for you?

Your Next Step

Think about how you would describe to someone the difference that Christ's death and God's forgiveness has made in your life. A little bit? A whole lot? Not as much as it used to? Not as much as it should?

The problem the 2 men had on the road to Emmaus was not a problem of the head in being able to understand. Theirs was a problem of the heart; they didn't actually believe what Jesus had taught them.

Ask God to help you with whatever unbelief you might have about the promises God has given us in His word, the Bible.

A Closing Thought

Thomas doubted that Jesus was alive again until he came face to face with our resurrected Savior. Jesus offered to let Thomas see and touch his wounds to prove to him that it was true. But when Thomas saw Him he knew it was true and all he could say was, "*My Lord and my God.* Remember what Jesus said to him, *Thomas because you have seen me, you have believed, ...blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*