

“AND THEIR EYES WERE OPENED”

On the Road to Emmaus with Jesus - Luke 24:13-53

- In every culture, people search for God.
 - ◆ Some do it boldly and intentionally; ◆ Others look for happiness, meaning and security in things around them but in reality, their hearts are really searching for God - they just don't know it.
 - ◆ Others stop seeking God because they think they've already found him – but maybe they haven't. They often think the most important thing to God is obeying all the rules – so they become afraid of God or the give up trying to please him because it's too hard.
- Most Jews at the time of Jesus were in this last category – rule keeping. (There are over 600 different commandments in the O.T.) Rules aren't necessarily bad (traffic, family, etc.). The problem is that they can sometimes become the main thing – and loving relationships become second. Instead of seeking a love-relationship with God, we either seek his rules – or run from his rules. And neither find love.

Luke 24:13-53

Scene 1: The Pain. Two disciples are walking to Emmaus – and they're sad because Jesus was killed, and confused that his body was missing.

- ▶ *Luke 24:19-24 – “He was a prophet,” they told Jesus, “powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”*
- God speaks to us, but we often miss the point. These disciples looked for political solutions to what only has spiritual solutions. And they didn't believe in the resurrection - they were trapped in their fears and human-centered dreams. God seemed distant. And their pain and disappointment rang loudly in their soul. *[Testimonies]*

Scene 2: Opened Eyes.

▶ *Luke 24:25-35 “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself...When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he*

disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?...”

- The awakening of these two disciples began when Jesus used the Bible. Jesus told them that the Messiah would have to suffer before he entered into his glory and power. Possible examples Jesus used: Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 52:14, Isaiah 53:5. These all describe Jesus.
- Sometimes, though, God uses unexpected things to open our eyes to spiritual truth. Here - Jesus was really their guest, but He takes the role of host, and in a bold act he breaks their own bread and gives it to them. Sometimes the unexpected comes through an act of love, or a crisis, or a movie, or a dream – and their eyes are opened to God.
 - ➔ What has God used in your life to open your eyes to spiritual truth? What eye-opening events are going on in your present life that you've been too busy or too blind to see? *[Testimonies]*

Scene 3: Deep Change

▶ *Luke 24:46-49 “Jesus told them, ‘The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. . . I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’”*

- Promised by Jesus: ◆ Repentance – being convicted of our sins and then turning from our sins; ◆ Forgiveness – God telling us he will not hold our sins against us, either in this life or the one to come; ◆ Power – the Holy Spirit, who is God's presence living in us to help us overcome our sins.
- *God is promising us freedom from our sin - Freedom from our pride, our fears, our self-centeredness, our addictions. [Testimonies]*

Conclusion

- Seeking God can take many paths – but they all run through Jesus. Spiritual transformation can look different with different people – but they all involve becoming more and more like Jesus.
 - ▶ *Luke 24:53 “Then the disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”*
- ***When our eyes are opened, Jesus is worshiped, and we are joyful.*** Our life-changing encounter with God is for the glory of God, and for our joy, and it's also for our family and friends and the whole world, so they, too, can experience the transforming power of the love of God.
- **“Changed”** by Aaron Niequist: “In Jesus' name I've been changed, I've been filled, I've been found, I've been freed, I've been loved, I've been saved! In Jesus' blood I've been loved, I've been cleansed, And redeemed, and released, rearranged. But how can I show You that I'm grateful? You've been so generous to me. How can I worship more than singing? And live out Redemption's melody. // *I have been blessed – now I want to be a blessing; I have been loved – now I want to bring love; I've been invited – I want to share the invitation; I have been changed – to bring change, to bring change.* // In Jesus' name we are changed, we are called; We are chosen, adopted, and named! In Jesus' blood we are loved, we are healed, We're forgiven and free of our shame! We want to show You that we're thankful; Flooding Your world with hope and peace; Help us to worship more than singing, Giving Redemption hands and feet....”