

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 24:13-35

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Parallel Passages: Mark 16:12-13

Sermon #107
January 31, 2021

The Lord Has Risen Indeed! (v.34)

Two weeks ago, we covered some crucial points that will help in our understanding of this passage. We learned together that unbelief or confusion about the person of Christ and the Scriptures will result in spiritual blindness. In order to understand the Bible, one must believe the things the Bible teaches. To believe what the Bible teaches requires time spent studying and meditating on the Word of God and searching with a diagnostic mind for unchanging truth.

We learned from Luke's gospel record that unbelief also produces grief and sadness. At the very time the disciples should have been celebrating the resurrection, they were mourning the death of their Messiah and ironically Jesus was not dead - He had risen. The angel asked the women when they arrived early Sunday morning at the tomb, **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"** They quickly came to understand that Jesus had risen in glory, but not everyone believed. We also ascertained God's perspective on the events of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion; they were planned before creation and the cross was necessary for the salvation of His people and for them to enter into His glory in heaven.

As we think through these issues before the men, women and the disciples that Sunday, I want to discover with you what it was that the disciples did not believe that caused their spiritual blindness. We understand the principle now that unbelief produces spiritual blindness but I want to take us a little deeper in this passage to find out what they failed to believe. I think with the Holy Spirit's help,

we also can have our eyes opened to the things they failed to believe and perhaps we can avoid their dilemma of spiritually seeing dimly or spiritual blindness. This passage in Luke chapter 24 teaches this primary truth; *spiritually blind eyes can only be opened with a proper understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ found in God's eternal Word by wisdom given from God's Spirit.*

In Luke's passage we will explore this morning found in chapter 24 addresses the great need people have to see Jesus correctly through God's Word. If we look elsewhere, in other religious writings we cannot know the true Christ and remain eternally lost. This is why the devil has worked so hard in establishing false religions where millions think they are saved, but in truth, are lost because they believe in a false Christ and false God that are not of the Bible. The true God and His Son, Jesus Christ, are found only in the Bible and as we study God's Word the Holy Spirit enables us to see and believe, just as the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus (**em·mah·ooce**) needed to see and believe. Spiritual vision is found in God's Word and our heart, mind and soul gain spiritual wisdom through the power of the Spirit of God which enables one to believe God's Word.

Let me go to God our Father in prayer.

Failure to Recognize (v.16-21)

Sunday morning 2 disciples or followers of Jesus left Jerusalem for the village of Emmaus 7 miles to the west of Jerusalem. Emmaus, meaning warm baths, sits on a hill overlooking the approach to Jerusalem and was only discovered by archeologists in 2017. A Franco-Israeli excavation has been ongoing now for just over 3 years with many new artifacts being found. Back to the Sunday morning, as these 2 disciples walked on the road, they were discussing the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus and as they were in this deep conversation Jesus walked

up and joined them in their travel. Please open you Bible to Luke chapter 24 and follow me as I read beginning at verse 16, “But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?’¹⁹ And *Jesus* said to them, ‘What things?’ And they said to him, ‘Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.’”

We can ascertain from this passage that these 2 followers understood only some of who Jesus really was. Look at verse 19 and you see they recognized Jesus “was a prophet mighty in deed”. They had experienced Jesus’ teaching and wisdom centered on the Word of God or Old Testament. In this they were right, Jesus was and is both a prophet and teacher. They had also hoped Jesus, if He was the Messiah, would “redeem Israel” in verse 21 or free Israel from Rome and restore Israel to being mighty among nations. However, they had not come to understand that Jesus was more than a prophet, teacher and miracle worker; Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus would need to take them from seeing Him as a mighty prophet to opening the eyes of their soul to see Him as the Son of God.

As John recorded in the 12th chapter of his gospel,³⁷ “Though *Jesus* had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ‘Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?’”

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.’ ⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴² ... the Pharisees ... ⁴³ loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.” The Pharisees were blind to who Jesus was by their ambition and the spiritual eyes of these 2 men walking on the road were blind by their limited understanding of Jesus and He would have to open them.

Verse 19 tells us Jesus questioned the 2 men whose blind eyes did not let them see, asking them what they were talking about and they answered Jesus saying, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.” Again, they had seen Jesus as a great man but not Jesus the Son of God. No one knows what Old Testament scripture Jesus shared with these 2 men; was it from Isaiah or the Psalms or Daniel? We do not know. We do know that God was and is in control and the crucifixion played out just as it was supposed to, including these men’s eyes of their hearts being blinded to understanding the totality of Jesus as the Son of God until Jesus open the eyes of their souls.

Limited Understanding (v. 20-21)

These 2 men had viewed Jesus death as the actions of corrupt religious leaders and Romans using their unbridled authority. We see this in verse 20, “how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.” We have the view and proofs of history that these 2 men did not. We know that God was completely in control and every detail of Christ’s crucifixion was ordained by God to bring about the redemption of mankind. These

2 men saw the prophet Jesus and understood it was the evil leaders who ordered Jesus crucified, but they failed to understand that it was God who orchestrated Jesus' death for their benefit. It wasn't until Jesus began teaching the Scriptures that their hearts and minds began to stir and come awake to understand even though evil leaders were behind His murder; God had been telling the Jews the Messiah, His crucifixion and resurrection was coming for hundreds of years and it was His plan for their redemption.

The 53rd chapter of Isaiah speaks about Jesus and His suffering and death as an atonement for the sins of the people. I think this may have been one of the Old Testament passages Jesus shared with the 2 disciples on the road because it is also the passage Peter used at Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover and resurrection, which is just 10 days after Jesus ascended to heaven, as recorded in Acts chapter 2. Isaiah 53 verses 9 to 12 deals directly with why Jesus had to suffer, “Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.” Back to Luke these 2 men spoke what was on their hearts to the risen Christ saying in verse 19, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.” Does not Peter carry forward the thoughts of Isaiah and these 2 men at Pentecost, saying, ²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and

foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”
(Acts 2:22-23)

As with most pious Jews in their day, they thought the Messiah was only for Israel. They believed that when the Messiah came, He would liberate them from Roman oppression and free them to rule over themselves and be restored as a great nation. This is what verse 21 reveals, “But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.”

Their view of the work of the Messiah in redemption was too small. When Jesus died and Israel was still under Roman control their hopes were dashed. In reality though the work of the Messiah was infinitely greater than to just redeem Israel. Jesus Christ’s death would not only save believing Jews but would also save believing Gentiles. The scope of redemption is for people of every tongue, tribe and nation. Jesus no doubt opened up the Scriptures concerning the scope of God’s redemptive plan. If you do not study the Scriptures you may have a limited view of Jesus as the Christ. You may suffer from a limited view of redemption just as the 2 men on the road. This should motivate you to read and study God’s Word and see its total truth and what it means for you and beyond that what it means for you, what it means for the world to the end of history.

This is the general problem with Jews today, they have a limited view of God and His plan for redemption. The scope of redemption is what Paul is putting forth in the Book of Galatians. God’s plan saves more than just the Jews. In fact, the Jews must believe like Abraham believed if they are to be converted and be saved. Paul lays it out to the believers in Galactica, ⁶“just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’? ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would

justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Galatians 3:6-9) The reason Abraham heard the Gospel was so that he could believe and through his seed Jesus Christ would come to extend salvation to not only Jews but to Gentiles as well. Jesus encountered these 2 disciples and helped them see the full extent of redemption – it was not just for Jews but all Gentiles, salvation is for all people of the world who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Have you sought Jesus and let Him answer your questions and clear your confusion so through God’s Word and His Spirit you might have a full understanding of both your redemption and that of the world?

Limited Belief (v. 21-24)

These 2 men, like many others, were blind to the plain words of Jesus and their meanings as He taught for 3 years. They had inherited their blindness from the religious leaders of Israel over hundreds of years. The nation sought spiritual understanding through men instead of God and purpose outside of God. This blinded them to God’s message of redemption in the Old Testament, His plan for redemption, the reason for the crucifixion and the Messiah’s resurrection. Reading from verse 21, “Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.”²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 as the women had said, but him they did not see.” Their disbelief caused their hopes to disappear with the death of Jesus and caused despair and grief to replace the peace and joy

Christ gives. If you do not heed the words of Jesus, the evil one will rob your peace and joy and replace it with despair and grief and fear.

I have no doubt, Jesus spoke to them about Psalm 22 and you should take time to read it and meditate on it this week. I have no doubt in the course of the next 40 days our glorified Lord, as He appeared to 100s of people had multiple Bible studies where He opened the Scriptures to His beloved disciples. As they beheld the glory of Christ from the Scriptures their eyes were even opened more and more to His glory as they began to see how from the very beginning even from as early as Genesis 3:15, Jesus was promised to the world, the One who would crush Satan's head on the cross.

Eyes Where Opened (v.28-31)

As one studies the Old Testament with the knowledge of Christ found in the New Testament, they can see Christ from the beginning and all the way through to Malachi - God's promise and solution to mankind's need for redemption woven through the Old Testament. Only through Christ can God look upon His people with the favor He desires. This is especially clear as God made covenants and remade covenants with man all through the Old Testament. Each covenant promised; God would be their God and they would be His people. This promise was fulfilled in Christ Jesus. People were unable to live up to what it meant to be God's people, so God through Christ fulfilled what people were unable to do and God being perfect fulfilled His side of the covenant. This reality was shared by Jesus that day on the road to Emmaus. Reading from verse 28, "So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at table with

them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.”

Jesus spent the day laying the groundwork, I believe, by speaking about the covenants God made with Abraham, Noah and David. Showing the disciples that at each step in redemptive history God made or renewed His covenant with man. Jesus may have shared chapter 31 of Jeremiah where the prophet speaking for God, as God directed, tells the people of Judah and Israel who were soon to be captured and marched off to captivity because of their sin of forsaking God, that there is a coming day when God brings about a New Covenant. This New Covenant is not like the Old Covenant that is repeated throughout the Old Testament because the perfect Savior, Jesus Christ brings about this New Covenant. Reading from Jeremiah chapter 31, beginning at verse 31, “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” In my mind’s eye I can see Jesus, as they waked, taking these disciples through the Scriptures explaining from Adam through all the prophets just how all the promises and covenants were referring to the Messiah whose death was planned before creation. Jesus explained that the Messiah was more than a prophet, He was the very Son of

God and how the Messiah's death and resurrection is for all who believe in the Messiah from His resurrection until the last day and how God's redemption from the beginning included not only the Jews but the Gentiles from every tongue, tribe and nation. As they come to a stop for the evening and ready for the evening meal Jesus sits down with these disciples and by breaking the bread and blessing it - their spiritual blindness is cured and for the first time, they see Jesus as He truly is, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Christ. Just as they see this truth Jesus vanishes and leaves them to consider all this. Is this not what Jesus did with each of you? He awakened your soul and gave you spiritual sight to see God's truth that is so plain before mankind but they do not see for they are spiritual blind. For you, like these 2 disciples the shadow is pushed back by the light of God that your spiritual eyes now see, you understand and you believe.

Hearts Burn (v. 32-35)

Luke lets us observe the change that comes over these men, reading at verse 32, "They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread." Their hearts are filled with God's truth that caused their hearts to burn and they return to Jerusalem no longer in discouragement and unbelief. They now believe God's Word found in the Old Testament and Jesus the Christ's words that would soon be written and called the New Testament and they understand the resurrection and cannot wait to tell others. The Good News of God's redemption through Jesus springs up like a well and pours out to the others. They did not hesitate; they had no fear of traveling in the

dark back to tell the others. This news could not wait until morning – they had to tell the others that Jesus Christ, “[the Lord has risen indeed](#)”!

Their hopes were no longer buried in the tomb with their dead Messiah. They were no longer looking for the living among the dead. They were no longer confused about all that Jesus had previously told them. They understood, they saw truly who Jesus was and they believed! As they shared this Good News it transformed others, even those who had denied Jesus were now transformed into believers. Is this not how it is with us? When the scales were removed from our eyes and we were given spiritual sight by Jesus and did it not become urgent within us and did we not have a great need to tell others? My beloved, I truly hope this is the case.

The Apostle Peter wrote of the blessing and passion God’s mercy has given us as believers and the new hope and eternal hope we live when we are born again. Let me close our time in God’s Word by reading from Peter’s 1st letter. Better yet, please stand and read these words of life with me. Read with me from 1st Peter chapter 1, verses 3 to 9, “[Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,](#) ⁴[to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,](#) ⁵[who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.](#) ⁶[In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,](#) ⁷[so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.](#) ⁸[Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him](#)

and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” Amen!

My beloved, we began our time this morning with the theme of this passage - *spiritually blind eyes can only be opened with a proper understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ found in God’s eternal Word with wisdom from God’s Spirit.*

If we accept all we have heard from God’s Word this morning as truth you should have a living hope that goes beyond this mortal world. Let the truth that Jesus rose from the grave change the way you see the purpose for your life. Just like the 2 disciples who could not wait until morning for they had a message of Good News to share – so do you. Go into the world and share the Good News of Jesus Christ! May this be true of each of us – Amen!