

Easter in Emmaus

Lk 24:13-24

Today is the day we celebrate Easter as a culture; The resurrection of our Lord and Savior. And you thought it was all about bunnies, eggs, and fancy clothes, didn't you?

Too many times we don't get the meaning of the empty tomb. Kind of like these two gentlemen in our text. I want to look at this story and how it relates to us today.

Prayer

I. Crazy Morning

A. The Women

1. Our day started with the women going to the tomb to put spices on the body of Jesus.
2. When they arrive they found the tomb empty.
3. Soon they had a conversation with Angels that Jesus had risen.
4. Right after that Mary has a conversation with Jesus himself!
5. With all that just happened, they run back to the Apostles to tell them what they saw.

B. The Apostles

1. Now the Apostles get the news and because they had heard Jesus tell them at least 3 different times that he would die and be raised on the 3rd day, they naturally...doubted everything the women told them.
2. Peter and John run to the tomb so see for themselves what is going on.

C. The disciples

1. That brings us to the 2 men walking downcast back to Emmaus from Jerusalem.
2. As I was reading this passage again, it jumped out to me that the 2 men on the way to Emmaus were with the disciples when they got the news.
3. **Luke 24:22–24 (ESV) — 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.”
4. These men weren't merely a couple of believers heading home; they were a part of that core group.
5. They had heard of the happenings at the grave first hand and still walked home not convinced.
6. Jesus meets up with them “in disguise” and talks about what is going on.
7. He tells them how clearly Moses and the Prophets had said all this would happen to the savior.
8. This “unknown stranger” is giving them a pep talk about their belief system.
9. The funny thing is that they didn't seem at all surprised at this.
10. The conversation seemed healing to them and as they got to their home, they begged him to stay with them for the evening.

II. Glorious Evening

A. 2 things are happening here.

1. First it was good hospitality to open your home to fellow Jew who was travelling.
2. Second, I think there was something that was going on with this man, that they couldn't quite put their fingers on.
3. **Luke 24:32 (ESV) — 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?"
4. Dinner comes and everything snaps together with such clarity of what just happened.
5. In their joy and excitement, they turn right back around and head to Jerusalem to tell the Apostles what happened to them.

B. Human reality

1. I love this story so much, because it is so real.
2. The reality of a resurrection is hard to believe even when you are a committed believer.
3. The reality of THE resurrection is a game changer when it comes to your faith.

C. What changed?

1. You read this and think, what changed?
2. They knew the facts, they heard the people, but still went home downcast.
3. What changed from the morning to the evening?
4. They met the risen Savior. He went from theory to reality.

III. Application to Me

A. We don't always get it.

1. It's interesting as I teach classes or just listen to Christians talk. I often find people just don't get it.
2. It's not a lack of faith, it's more not understanding the foundation of our faith.
3. So often, we build our faith on the preacher, on the life of the church, on the elders or other deeply respected person.
4. We may build our faith on the fact that we grew up in the church and this belief system.
5. We believe in Christianity because of those who are around us.

6. **Hebrews 12:1–2 (ESV) — 1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

7. Please listen carefully, I'm not knocking the cloud of witnesses our faith in looking to Jesus.

8. What I notice is that we sometimes stop there. We haven't had the conversation in our hearts with the Risen Savior.

9. Our faith is academic, not personal.

10. I want to challenge you to see Jesus as real and personal.

11. He needs to be walking by your side in life.

12. He needs to be sharing the meals and other activities of your life.

13. When he is real to you, your faith is just naturally buoyed!

B. Know him through the word

1. Jesus points out to these 2 men that scripture had a lot to say about him.

2. I hear people say that Jesus just doesn't feel real to them.

3. Have you ever found letters written by someone you knew about or knew later in life? You sit down and read those letters and begin to see them in a whole new light. You see their every day thoughts and feelings. You read about the good and bad. You begin to get a sense of what made them tick.

4. I read a book from the German perspective of interviews to soldiers who fought and survived D-Day. Before that book, they were simply the enemy who wore blue uniforms. After reading those interviews I realized they were regular men, who believed they were doing the right thing for their nation just like my grandfather and his fellow soldiers believed. That book of interviews made them real to me, they were no longer just a historical note.

5. When I was a teenager, I found a box of letters my mom had saved. It was Dad's love letters to her when they dated. I went between wanting to throw up and thinking, wow, dad was really romantic. You could see how much they loved each other.

6. Our Bibles are a love letter from God.

7. Our Bibles gives a look at how Jesus felt and thought.

8. The more you study it, the more you see Jesus.

C. Share the good news

1. As soon as the disciples found about Jesus being with them, they rushed back to tell everyone in Jerusalem.

2. They didn't care about the fact they just got home, they were too excited to keep the news to themselves.
 3. When you feel the burning in your heart you just have to tell those you know about what you found out.
- D. Don't feel bad about your doubts, but don't live in them either
1. In Jn 24:36ff, Jesus appears to them in the room.
 2. Here's the crazy part, they just got done telling them what they had seen that Jesus was alive.
 3. When he appears to them. Vs 37 and 41 says they freaked out and didn't believe in him at first.
 4. They believed Jesus rose from the grave, but not the fact that he could show up in a room with them? Really?
 5. Mark 16:14 tells us Jesus rebuked them for their hard hearts in not believing those who had seen him.
 6. Luke adds that He then told them he had a job for them to do. **Luke 24:45–48 (ESV) — 45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.
 7. They had their times of doubt and so will we.
 8. We just can stay there, God as work for us to do.
 9. The savior has risen. Today we celebrate that fact.
 10. In fact, every Sunday we celebrate that fact.
 11. Is your heart burning with that reality?
 12. Are you ready to be his witnesses to the world?
 13. Story of Jodie that I met at hotel – life was hard, became a Christian, life was still hard, but she had a different perspective now. Wanted to share her love of Jesus with whoever she met.
 14. Easter in Emmaus
 15. Easter in Rochester
 16. We can choose to walk around downcast or we can feel the burning in our hearts that Jesus is alive and well.
 17. And we can't wait to tell people about the risen savior.