

## Teaching 2 Road To Emmaus

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12

When we hope and pray for certain things we don't always get the answer when we want it.

Sometimes we place surreal expectations on God and when they don't come to pass we become disappointed and we can even feel abandoned by Him. We thought that He would do something, but He didn't do it. We held onto a promise He gave us, but it didn't come to pass. We thought that we were praying in line with His will, but He didn't answer. God didn't come through as we had hoped...

This morning let's take a look at Luke 24:13-35

Here we read of the two men traveling to Emmaus. They were discussing the events that had transpired and trying to make sense of it all and Jesus joins them along the way. They didn't know at this time it was in fact Jesus. They thought it odd this man knew nothing about the crucifixion that just took place. They had been hoping that Jesus was the promised Messiah who would redeem Israel. But their hopes turned to sadness when the religious leaders crucified Jesus. Three days have now passed and they felt hopeless.

They were disappointed and disillusioned. They were still in shock. They didn't understand what was happening. Why did evil win?  
And I am sure it wasn't just these two men who experienced this hopelessness. So many had hoped like they did, that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for.

Their expectation of who He was seemed to diminish. Perhaps they were overcome by grief and disappointment. They were so excited thinking Jesus was the One-the triumphant One, the victorious One, They had prayed and hoped that Jesus was The Messiah who would redeem Israel.  
but their expectations weren't met...or so they thought.

These two disciples were hoping for a King to reign on an earthly throne. Instead they saw Jesus nailed to a cross between common criminals. They were hoping for hope now and Jesus showed them what true humility looks like.

We can relate to their sadness, their disappointment. It is hard when we have prayed and hoped for something that we thought was God's will, but then it does not happen the way we thought it would.

Verse 21-we were hoping...we had hoped. Can you imagine the look on their faces, the sadness in their voices as they said we had hoped...haven't we said the same thing?

we had hoped the tumor wouldn't be cancerous  
we had hoped to work out the difficulties in our marriage  
we had hoped we would get that perfect job  
We had hoped our prodigal was on the way home

We had hoped the friendship would be restored

Perhaps you are right now traveling that road - the Emmaus road—that road of doubt and disappointment. Like these two men you are trying to make sense of events that turned out differently than you had hoped. You, like these men, are trying to figure out the reasons why. It's important for us to remember that on our road of loneliness, when we feel hopeless, we are not alone. We may think we are, but we're not. Jesus is there with us.

Psalm 37:28, For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Hebrews 13:5 Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

I love that verse 15 of Luke 24 tells us that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. Jesus meets them along the road. He walks and talks with them. He listens to them share their grief and disappointment. He listens to them pour out their hearts to Him. But after listening, Jesus begins to speak and He reminds them that the prophets had foretold all of these things. He told them that there he Christ, the Messiah, had to suffer and then be raised again. God had promised it in the prophecies. Then Jesus started from the beginning and explained what the Old Testament prophecies had said about Him. But the men still did not know that it was Jesus speaking to them.

He reminded them of what the word of God says. When we find ourselves in this place, it is important to go to the Word of God. When we are confused it is imperative to go back to the truth. No matter how we “feel,” or what lies the enemy wants to fill our heads with, God’s Word reminds us of what’s true. It can be difficult in uncertain times, God may seem distant when the answers don’t come quickly. But the Truth is, He’s still there, with us. And He has a plan, for He’ll never abandon us.

David wrote in psalm 119:147 I rise before the dawning of morning and cry for help. I hope in your Word.

Hebrews 4:12. For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Romans 5:5 tells us that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.  
We always have hope when we have Jesus.

We look around our world today and its easy to be heartbroken. Evil is most certainly on the rise but we must not lose hope. We need to remember God has the final say. Again, it's in those very moments we need to be in the Word.

Our God, the God of all hope is able to bring great victory in the darkest of times.

Like these two men, we may not always see Jesus in the midst of the uncertainty. But he is there. And when we realize that He indeed was with us along the road of doubt, sadness, fear, hopelessness our hearts will also burn within us. Jesus revealed Himself through the scriptures to them that day. He does the same for us today.

We need to remember that we don't see the finished picture like God does. In scripture when so many situations seemed hopeless...Sarah in her nineties laughing at the thought of giving birth, when Joseph was thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, accused of wrong doing, thrown into prison, the children of Israel in a panic as they see pharaoh's troops catching up to them at the Red Sea, David being on the run from a madman trying to kill him, Daniel in the lions den, Mary pregnant and unmarried, Jesus crucified, hanging on a cross.....But there is more to each of these stories. And there is more to the story that you may be going through right now. God alone sees the beginning and the end. Whatever circumstances you find yourself in today, wherever you are in your walk, don't lose hope. This is not the end of your story.

A journey that began in hopelessness and despair turned into one that brought the assurance of who Jesus was, the truth that Christ had defeated death, and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. What a glorious hope that is!

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:57

Jesus spoke these beautiful words before ascending into heaven. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt. 28:20

We are never forgotten. Our God who sees all, knows all, and holds all purpose, all plans and timing in His hand, is the God who intercedes for you and me.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save [a]to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them

He gives the victory and power. He gives Peace and hope. Strength and wisdom. And He is with us.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Often we forget that Jesus is walking on the road with us.

These were disciples who lost sight. Men who walked and talked with Jesus. We're in His presence and heard His teachings.

V35 and then they shared with the others.

Comfort one another as we have been comforted