

4/26 TAKE-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read:

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now that same day two of the Jews were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened regarding the crucifixion. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them, but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ 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. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² 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?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Some helpful background info

To offer some clarity about verses 19-24: These Jews talk about Jesus' death and that his body is missing, and still do not put two and two together that He was resurrected in heaven! That is why Jesus is so harsh to them. Before His death the Lord assured His disciples that He would leave them, return to God the Father, empower them to continue the ministry, and eventually come back on Judgment Day (see John 13:33-14). The fact that these men see Jesus has died and now hear about the empty tomb and still don't trust that God has conquered all shows a lack of faith and understanding.

Reflect:

- 1) Women were not only some of the most important first followers of Jesus, but they were also at the foot of the cross with Jesus as he was dying, and as this text says, THEY were the first ones to whom the “empty tomb” was revealed. Clearly women have such an important place in Jesus’ heart and ministry. Why do we hear so little about them in the Gospels?
- 2) Why do you think it was the breaking of the bread that made the disciples finally recognize Jesus?
- 3) Many say this passage speaks to how, even though God is all around us, we have such a hard time noticing/recognizing God’s presence. What do you think it is in our life that distracts us from seeing the wonder and works of God in our lives daily?

Suggested answers to reflection questions:

- 1) Unfortunately, at the time of these events, the Bible was written by and for men. This does not mean women meant less to God. In fact, women were some of His truest followers and spreaders of His Word. The fact that women are mentioned and named less in the Gospels is a reflection of the culture they lived in, NOT a reflection of God's Love! God has, from the beginning, known that all genders were worthy of Him and would be His Beloved Children and Disciples of His message. In fact, Jesus spoke to and leaned on women in unparalleled ways in his time!
- 2) Perhaps because it reminded them of the Last Supper – one of the most intimate times the Disciples shared together. Perhaps, breaking bread a second time, now AFTER his death and resurrection, they finally understood what he meant when he said he was going to sacrifice his body for them. Though they “said” they trusted him, only now that Jesus had completed his death and resurrection could they truly understand the metaphor of Jesus “breaking himself” for the salvation of all.
- 3) Many things can be put here – our constant busy-ness is one that speaks to me. We are often so “booked” that we fail to ever take time to sit still and appreciate the gifts of love and life around us, God's gifts, embodiments of His presence! Another distraction I think is our comfortability. We have so much “stuff” and “comfort” that it keeps us from ever leaving our comfort zone and remembering that we NEED others and God to flourish. Another very interesting suggestion is our “ego.” How often do we believe we have to be right? Could this perhaps be failing to trust the ways in which God can move and change the world through others?

Closing Prayer:

One method to continue to “open our eyes” to God is gratitude. It helps us “never forget” all God has done for us. As a closing prayer, make a list of 10 things you are grateful for that God has given you or that you have in your life. God is all around, we just need to take time to notice it.

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AMEN!