

# Easter Morning

Journey with Jesus  
Luke 24:13-35

Sources: \* The Worship Plot: For Those Tired of Worship Wars by Bill Bray and Dan Boone

## Prayer

### Introduction

#### [Luke 24:1-8.](#)

- Today we celebrate the risen Savior! We rejoice! We sing!
- We read about the miracle of the empty tomb!
- We celebrate that Christ rose again from the dead - that the grave could not hold Him, that He is seated beside the Father ready to welcome us to heaven.
- We celebrate that God gave His one and only Son so that we can believe and in Him and have eternal life.
- God loves us - and the tomb is empty!
- He is risen! He is risen in deed!

**But, sometimes, in the midst of celebration,**

**there is sorrow and pain;**

**loneliness and frustration.**

**Our text is no exception: trouble is around the corner.**

#### [Luke 24:9-12.](#)

When the women returned, only one responded with belief: Peter.

The women told *these things to the eleven and to all the rest.* (vs. 9)

These were the people who had walked with Jesus;

ministered with Jesus;

witnessed the miracles;

and hoped for a Messiah and King.

These were the ones whose feet were washed by Jesus

and who prayed with Him in the garden.

**Yet,** the words of the women *seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.* (vs. 11).

This was only the beginning of the trouble:

the doubting, the questioning, the disappointment, the fear, and the despair.

Today, as we continue on our journey through scripture, **we will meet two men:**

two men walking away from Jerusalem;  
 away from what they have experienced;  
 away from the people they have been around for months.

Two men journeying to Emmaus;

escaping from Jerusalem and

the events of trial, crucifixion, and death that happened over the past few days.

[Luke 24:13-24.](#)

These two men, traveling and talking together, had been a part of the disciples:

They were there when the women returned from the tomb with the news.

They were told of the vision of angels who said Jesus was alive;

and the giant stone was rolled away.

But trouble arrived:

They left Jerusalem and the company of disciples! They had given up.

They were running even though they had been taught:

they were there when Jesus spoke to the crowds;

when He shared the parables;

when they were sent out to minister to the people...

After all their experiences and all the stories they had heard, they still chose to not believe.

And trouble continues:

The words of verse 21 - "*but we had hoped...*"

They hoped for a ruler - one to conquer the Roman government;

to bring justice to the faithful;

to change the world at that time.

They hoped and they waited

and the proof that they needed was not there.

Jesus was not seen by the women or Peter.

Three days had passed, and the cross had been victorious.

Jesus was dead. Their leader was gone.

Their understanding and desires for the future were destroyed. Hope died on the cross.

Yet, Hope stood so close! He's right there!

But the two men can't see Him - they don't recognize Christ!

He is standing right there, and they don't know it is Him!

They were complaining about the women and Peter not seeing Him...

yet, here He is, walking with them, and they don't know it's Him.

### **Hind sight is a wonderful thing!**

Knowing the whole picture - the story beyond the current events - is like being on the outside of a scary mystery movie.

- You can see the bad guy creeping through the night, silently making his way to the innocent, unsuspecting people.
- The simple group of oblivious people don't expect anything and you just want to yell out and warn them!

When I think of these two men and their conversation with Jesus,

I just want to reach out and shake them:

"It's Jesus! You're talking to Jesus! Stop doubting!"

So often, we have the desire to do the same thing with those around us.

We watch our friends and family members make decisions and choices that are not helpful:

taking a job that eliminates church fellowship,

drinking too much,

dating someone who is a negative influence,

not taking prescribed medicine,

eating too much, ... and the list goes on.

Choices that are not wise.

Choices that we know will cause damage - and we want to warn them.

We want them to open their eyes.

There are also times when we, ourselves,

**know the basic events of a situation** or of life experiences **but we miss the point entirely!**

- We don't understand the signs and the circumstances, and so we reject the truth.
- Or, worse yet, we know the truth but chose not to live our lives according to it.
- How about when we expect things to go a certain way and we get disappointed... so we change directions instead of staying and working through the situation?

There is a reason all of us are here today - to celebrate the truth of the risen Savior -

but after this morning,

will you live that truth

**or**

continue to ignore that truth and walk in ways that keep you from seeing Jesus?

Chances are that you too **carry around a life script** as to how things should turn out.

Things like **family, education, relationships, money, health, and work** are just a few of the components of that script.

Perhaps parts of your script have been realized.

Perhaps other, more significant parts of our script have not been realized.

Perhaps your script is not turning out at all like it should.

And, like the two men that day, "you too had hoped."\*

How often do we ignore the truth?

How often do we forget what we have learned and experienced?

How often do we lose hope?

How often are we disappointed so we change directions?

**Just like the two men in the text on their way to Emmaus, we are all on a journey.** Their journey turned out to be a journey of understanding, of enlightenment.

[Luke 24:25-35](#)

Jesus took the time to meet these two men on the road to Emmaus.

He meets them on their journey while all the others are in Jerusalem.

Jesus left the many and went after the few.

Jesus joins the two men who have gone through so much:

who had heard His teaching,

seen Him die,

and are disappointed by the news on Sunday morning.

He understood their sorrow, their loss of hope, and He met them where they were.

He joins them, talks with them, teaches them.

He opens up conversation with them and takes them deeper into scripture.

He shows himself to them through the breaking of the bread.

While Jesus was with the disciples, before his arrest and death on the cross, he had told His disciples to remember Him through the breaking of the bread; that Jesus is the bread of life.

We know Jesus' words had great impact because later:

*"they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scripture to us?'" (vs. 32)*

The disciples had a decision to make.

They could let Him go or they could invite Him to stay.

They invited Him to stay.

**We are all on a journey to find hope, to find peace, to find comfort and strength.**

Many of us have found our peace, hope, and comfort and **we have found them in Christ.**

- When we have accepted Christ and walked with Him, we need to remember that we are still learning.
- We need to realize that we may or may not see the signs of the circumstances we are in.
- We need to be ready and open for conversations - conversations that will help get us back on track and conversations that will help get others get back on track.

Are we providing the grace during conversations with others to help open their eyes to Christ?

Are we going out of our way to share the news of the return and victory of Christ?

Are we connecting and communing with others? Are we open to a conversation?

**Some of us are still looking.**

We are still searching for hope, peace, comfort, strength and understanding.

What we are looking for is really a "who": Christ - His peace, His strength, His comfort.

Do you know that Jesus will meet you where you are?

Are you willing to invite Him in to the conversation?

Are you willing to invite Him in to your circumstances?

Your past, your habits, your hurts: Jesus will meet you.

He wants to connect.

Christ is patient.

Christ is our companion

and will walk with us,

teach us,

direct us,

and love us as we journey into a relationship

and understanding of who He is for us in our lives.

**When we allow Jesus to talk with us and to teach us,  
we too will be able to proclaim with the disciples that,  
“The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to us!”**

Video

**Prayer**