

**On the Road with Jesus: The Road to Resurrection**  
**Easter Sunday April 16, 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. (Luke 24:13-16 GNT)

Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment Jesus disappeared! They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. (Luke 24:31-33a NLT)

This encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus shows us all how to travel the road to resurrection. If we want to follow Jesus, live in His presence, and receive His resurrection power, there are certain paths we must take.

**Digging Deeper**

**The Road to Resurrection is traveled through...**

**Scripture**

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27 NLT)

- What an awe inspiring Bible study class that must have been! Jesus personally recalling Scriptures that point to His life, death and resurrection. It's reasonable to assume the disciples were hanging on His every word and were impacted deeply by the biblical knowledge of this man whom they still did not recognize. Jesus wanted to know from those disciples on the road to Emmaus exactly what He wants to know from us today: Can we believe without seeing with our own eyes? Can we believe based on the reliable eyewitness testimony of other people? That testimony is laid out for us in our map, our compass, our earthly GPS: the Bible. It is the written Word of God that points us to the Living Word of God - Jesus Christ. Why do you think Jesus took the time to recall the writings of Moses and all of those passages from the Old Testament? Wouldn't it have been easier to force their eyes to open to the truth of who He was?
- Have you ever read a particular piece of Scripture for the second (or even thirtieth) time and because of the particular circumstances of your life in that moment, you were finally able to comprehend the message waiting for you in those verses? It's a feeling you get that makes you believe God is speaking directly to you. After all, His Word is a lamp unto our feet. Talk about a time when reading Scripture revealed something important to you at the exact moment you needed it.

## **Hospitality**

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. (Luke 24:28-29 NLT)

- The road to resurrection and new life in Christ is paved with hospitality. In Revelation 3:20 (NLT) Jesus says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." How can we overcome the distractions of this world so we are able to recognize His voice as Christ calls to us from behind our "closed doors"?
- Read Romans 12:13 (NLT). Are you always eager to extend hospitality? Even if it isn't your spiritual gift, Christian hospitality is about servanthood, not grandeur. Think of what hospitality looks like in your home and life. Is there more you could be doing to make others feel special by showing them the love of Christ through simple acts of kindness?

## **Fellowship**

As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. (Luke 24:30-31a NLT)

- Have you ever been so wrapped up in your own problems or emotions that you were oblivious to what was happening right in front of you? These disciples spent a good deal of time following Jesus, but were so overcome with sadness, they could not recognize Him. After reading the verses above from the Gospel of Luke, why do you suppose the disciples' eyes were finally opened to who He was at the precise moment when Jesus broke the bread, gave thanks and handed it to them?
- Easter, more than any other day, is a time to be in fellowship with one another. God created us to share the highs and lows of our lives and to love one another as we love ourselves. What is one thing you will commit to do this Easter to further live into the greatest commandment of them all? A few ideas might be: invite a stranger to church (or to share a meal); spend time in service to others; commit to dedicated prayer, fasting, or Bible study with your small group or accountability partner. There are many things we can do to be intentional about broadening our relational horizons.

## **Conclusion**

Even though you may feel like you're making the journey through this world all alone, nothing could be further from the truth. The Risen Christ is right beside you. Allow God to open your eyes so you might see Jesus, feel His presence, and experience His resurrection power.

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!