

EASTER AT CORNERSTONE 2026
4/5/206 • Andy Deane • Luke 24:13-36

Have you ever said, "I had hoped..." and felt the weight of disappointment that followed when it didn't work out? This Easter story shows us how Jesus meets us right there, in the gap between what we hoped for and what actually happened.

Have you ever left something convinced it's over?

Luke 24:13-17, 13 ..that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 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.

- That's where we find these two disciples on road to Emmaus. They had believed in Jesus, but He died on the cross. And with Him, their expectations.
- What I love about Jesus is that He doesn't wait for them to turn around. Jesus walks right up next to people who are walking away from Him. He meets them not where they should be... but exactly where they are.
- The question this Easter isn't whether we feel hope, it's whether we believe that Jesus is still walking with us, even when it feels like it's over.

When we struggle to hope...Jesus leans in.

Luke 24:18-27, 18 ..."Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened...?" 19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus" they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed...20 our rulers...crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel...22 [and] 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..." 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...he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- Notice how Jesus responds to their lack of hope: He doesn't say, "You shouldn't feel that way." He just lets them share their struggle.
- Kristyn Perez, in [*Gospel hope in Grief & Loss*](#), writes, "When we ignore grief we save it for a later, often more severe, buildup & possible breakdown."
- They share that others said tomb was empty and that Jesus alive, but factual information about Jesus that you don't really believe, doesn't change you. What we really need is an encounter with Jesus.
- Mark Vroegop, in [*Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*](#), writes, "Lament is the honest cry of a hurting heart wrestling w/ the paradox of pain and the promise of God's goodness."
- When we process our struggle in light of God's story, it reframes it.
- What looked like the end was actually where God was doing His greatest work, even when we can't see it yet.

Jesus stays near, but He won't pressure us.

Luke 24:28-32, 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 & opened the Scriptures to us?"

- The invitation matters. Jesus pursues us, walks with us, talks with us, but for a real relationship, we invite Him in.

Revelation 3:20, Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

- The meal with Jesus was all so familiar, and finally they recognized Him. They had their encounter with God and then He vanishes. Hope returned when they finally knew who was with them.
- I love that Jesus doesn't watch our suffering from a distance:
- Tim Keller, in [*Reason for God*](#), writes, "If we ask the question: 'Why does God allow evil and suffering to continue?' and we look at the cross of Jesus, we still do not know what the answer is. However, we know what the answer isn't. It can't be that he doesn't love us. It can't be that he is indifferent or detached from our condition. God takes our misery and suffering so seriously that he was willing to take it on himself."
- Jesus doesn't always change our situation immediately...but He changes the outcome. The resurrection had the final word. And because He lives, our worst moment is never our last moment.

Jesus shows up when His people gather.

Luke 24:33-35, 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. 36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

- Hours earlier, they were leaving hope behind. Now they're running toward it. It's the same road...different direction.
- His first words are "Peace be with you." He shows up to bring peace to what's unsettled inside us personally. Not the absence of problems, but the presence of Jesus in those very same problems.
- Over the past few years, some of us have been walking away from God, from church and perhaps from any hope at all. The truth is, the risen Jesus has been walking beside us the whole time.

Romans 6:4, Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.

- Some of us feel like we're miles down the wrong road, but the beautiful thing about Jesus is this...we're never too far to turn around.
- If you've walked away from God and you're ready to turn back, tell Him that in your own words. Confess your sin, tell Jesus you love Him, and hold onto this promise from Scripture:

1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- If you've never put your trust in Jesus as your Savior, you can do that right now. Turn from your sin, believe the gospel—that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for your sins, and that He rose again three days later, and express that to God in a simple, personal prayer. Then stand on this promise:

Romans 10:9, If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- [I Just Gave My Life to Christ](#)
- [I Want to be Baptized](#)

Join us next week for baptisms, and a new series called, **Love Worth Singing About**. It's a study through the book of **Song of Solomon** where we'll discuss topics like: attraction, dating, romance, marriage, fighting right, sex, and how Jesus makes relationships better.

NOTE: Due to the mature topics we'll be discussing, Pastor Andy recommends that during this 6 week series kids in Middle School attend the youth service (9:30am & 11am) and that children younger than that be checked into C-KIDS Boardwalk or the C-KiDS Jr. Train Station.