

Luke 24 - His Plan is Perfect

The women

Luk 24:1-53 NIV On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 **While they were wondering about this**, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! **Remember how he told you**, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" 8 **Then they remembered his words.** 9 When they came back from the tomb, **they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.** 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 **But they did not believe the women**, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

They experienced the unexpected - twice (Jesus died Jesus' body was gone)

- **WONDERING** - surprised and confused so much that they are unsure how to react

How did Jesus move them beyond this...

- REMEMBER WHAT HE TOLD YOU -- Jesus had prepared them, they had forgotten
- In some way He prepares us for the unexpected...[think of Job]

Two on The Road to Emmaus

13 Now 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.** 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.

Dashed Hopes Affect the physical, emotional and spiritual

- **They were DOWNCAST** = angry visaged, that is, gloomy or affecting a mournful appearance
- **Their view of God can was affected** - They said he was a prophet and powerful in word and deed, but *nothing about Messiah, nothing about the Son of God*
- **Their hearts were sick** - They said WE HAD HOPED HE WAS THE ONE
 - Pro 13:12 NIV Hope deferred makes the heart sick

How Did Jesus Lead Them to Recovery?

- **He reprovved them** for not believing the word of God, and
- **He explained to them** what was said **in all the Scriptures** concerning himself
- He wanted to stress the importance of the Scripture - **were not our hearts burning vs 32**
 - THIS WAS MORE IMPORTANT AND FOUNDATIONAL THAN HIM STANDING AND SAYING IT IS ME - HE KEPT HIMSELF HIDDEN AND DROVE THEM TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORD OF GOD

The Disciples and the Eleven

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, **"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"** 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence. 44 He said to them, **"This is what I told you while I was still with you:** Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 **Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.** 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

They struggle with Doubt and Disbelief

- **DOUBT** - when Jesus stood in their midst
- **DISBELIEF** - when the women told them He had risen - (11) But they did not believe the women, because **their words seemed to them like nonsense.**

Jesus helped them by opening their minds to understand the Scripture

Lessons:

God does not shield us from Unexpected Events that Dash our Hopes

REMEMBER - Jesus is NOT committed to keeping these things from our lives...

He is committed to His purpose which is PERFECT and GOOD and BEST

Easter was God's Perfect & Glorious Plan - But getting there was a horrendous experience for the people in this story

- I am glad he didn't stay in the tomb so their expectation could have been met
- Rom 8:28 NIV And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose.

Jesus directs us to the word of God when we experience the unexpected

In each case in this story - Jesus took the people to the Scripture or to what He had said...

It is the word of God that gives us Hope

Rom 15:4 NIV For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide **we might have hope.**

Going to scripture is not an academic exercise it is interacting with Jesus

Joh 5:39-40 NIV You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

- When the women remembered what Jesus said...they believed and ran to tell the apostles
- When the two disciples on the road heard the Scriptures - their hearts burned...they ran to tell the disciples
- Jesus opened the minds of the apostles to understand - and told them to go TELL The WORLD

Are any of us in this place?

Wondering? - surprised and confused so much that they are **unsure how to react**

Downcast? - angry visaged, that is, gloomy or affecting a mournful appearance

View of God affected?

Hearts sick because hope has been deferred?

Doubting?

You must trust in his unfailing love

You must go to the word of God to find comfort

- Trisha Nottingham