

**March 23, 2008 – Easter Sunday**  
**“Ever Feel Disappointed?”**  
**Luke 24:13-36**

I love this story, though it is not the one we usually hear at Easter. Mark mentions the incident briefly (Mark 16:12-13), but Luke gives us details.

Luke 24:13-36 NLT

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. 15 Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them. 16 But they didn't know who he was, because God kept them from recognizing him.

17 "You seem to be in a deep discussion about something," he said. "What are you so concerned about?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. 18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

19 "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did wonderful miracles. He was a mighty teacher, highly regarded by both God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders arrested him and handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had thought he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. That all happened three days ago. 22 Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. 23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! 24 Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, Jesus' body was gone, just as the women had said."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You are such foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory?" 27 Then Jesus quoted passages from the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining what all the Scriptures said about himself.

28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus would have gone on, 29 but they begged him to stay the night with them, since it was getting late. So he went home with them. 30 As they sat down to eat, he took a small loaf of bread, asked God's blessing on it, broke it, then gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts feel strangely warm as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem, where the eleven disciples and the other followers of Jesus were gathered. When they arrived, they were greeted with the report, 34 "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter!"

35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the

bread. 36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

Jesus is God, but He was also human. As a human being He dealt with the same trials and temptations that you and I deal with. The difference is that His trials and temptations were much more intense than any we will ever face, and He never sinned or failed God or others during those times of testing.

Ever feel passionate for what is right, make a stand and then be persecuted for it? Jesus did too.

Ever feel betrayed by friends? Jesus did too.

Ever wonder what you would say if you were sharing a last meal with friends? Jesus had to deal with that.

Ever lay awake all night making a difficult decision? So, did Jesus.

Ever have a dream you were willing to die for? Jesus did! He actually gave His life because He could not bear an eternity without you.

Ever feel disappointment?" So did Jesus!

He was disappointed in friends and family who did not believe in Him, betrayed Him, and abandoned Him in a time of crisis. Ever have that happen to you? He was disappointed because He prayed and asked if there was some other way to accomplish the Father's will rather than go to the cross to suffer physically and spiritually, and the answer to His prayer was, no! Ever pray for something to change, but it wasn't to be? He was disappointed because His followers should have known Him better and should have had better knowledge of the Scriptures, they should have been wiser, but they were foolish.

Ever been troubled, disappointed, upset, angry...Jesus felt all those things, but handled them in the right way, unlike...

A woman who walked into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied. "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband! That's against the law!

I'll lose my license! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now, that's different. You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

Unlike Jesus, we don't always handle things as we ought, like the two disciples returning to Emmaus. Let's look at their experience:

### **1. Renew/Refocus Your Mind**

On the same day Jesus arose from the dead two of His followers had missed the significance of history's greatest event because they were too focused on their disappointments and problems. That's what we do. We focus on the negative things and lose sight of the blessings, promises and positive things that have happened or are happening in our lives. Our focus is on ourselves, not on God or on others. Easter is the message that Jesus is alive, therefore, all of His promises are true. We should be loving God and others, rather than thinking only of ourselves. Controlling your thoughts is one of the most difficult things to do. You probably find it easy to worry, to daydream, to let your imagination run wild, and to let uninvited thoughts creep in and take over. God tells us through Paul in Phil 4:8 (NLT) "And now, dear brothers and sisters.... Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

In another place Paul says (Rom 12:2 NIV), "...be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Daily prayer and Bible study will help renew your mind. Daily prayer and Bible study will help you to stay in God's will. Daily prayer and Bible study will keep your mind on Christ Jesus and His will. Daily prayer and Bible study will help you to keep your mind from focusing only on your disappointments and problems. Jesus said it is foolish for you to not know or believe the Scriptures.

### **2. Recognize Jesus**

The two on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus when He was walking beside them. When we are experiencing problems in our lives we may feel that God has left us. It's not true. He is with us at all times, He walks beside us even though we don't recognize Him. It's like the footprints thing, right? You, know, a man has a dream and sees two sets of footprints on the beach. One is his and the other belong to the Lord. Then in his dream he sees that during the lowest times of his life he only sees one set of footprints. He questions the Lord, "You said you would always be with me, why do I only see one set of footprints during the most troublesome times of my life?" And the Lord says, "I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." It is usually after the crisis is over, sometimes even years later, that we can look back and see that God was with us all the time in our disappointment, confusion, and trouble. And, we discover that He used that time to teach us some pretty important lessons, and prepare us for something in the future.

### **3. Return/Remain In Fellowship**

To compound the problem of the two on the Emmaus road, they were walking in the wrong direction - away from the fellowship of believers in Jerusalem. Christians are likely to miss Jesus and withdraw from the strength found in other believers when they become preoccupied with their disappointment, dashed hopes and frustrated plans. When things are not going as we prayed they would, we not only begin to neglect our private time with Jesus, we neglect time with His people, the Church. But we need the church and each other, as it says in Heb 10:25 (NLT) "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."

Only when looking for Jesus in their midst will believers experience the power and help he can bring. Be alert to his presence in every aspect of daily living.