



The Road of Hope (Easter 2021)

Key Text: Luke 24:13-34

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Life in a moment can be filled with uncertainty and confusion. However, we can rejoice because Biblical hope is confident and living. Early followers of Jesus Christ move from heartbroken to hopeful and have hearts burning after an encounter with the Risen Savior.

*"I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade." - Admiral James Stockdale (Good to Great, Jim Collins)*

*"Real courage embraces the twin realities of current difficulty and ultimate triumph." Max Lucado*

- The resurrection gives us the courage to confront our current realities.

### **Setting the Scene**

Definition of Hope: Desire with Anticipation (I wish something will happen.)

Biblical Hope: Expectancy with confidence and eagerness. (Belief in the promises of God)

The Tale of Three Roads.

- The Road of misunderstanding (Luke 19:28-44)  
Biblical hope leads to clarity.
- The Road of Suffering (Luke 23:26-44)  
When suffering is all you can see, hope looks beyond the pain. Hope looks beyond the cross.
- The Road of Hope (Luke 24:13-34)  
This Road leads to peace despite circumstances.

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

### **1. Hope Amid Disappointment (Luke 24:13-24)**

- These two men could not see past their disappointment. Why were they so surprised that Jesus does what He says He will do.

**24:16** they were kept from recognizing him. Compare Luke's strong statements about the disciples' earlier inability to understand Jesus's words (9:45; 18:34). The language in Greek here is quite forceful: "their eyes were overpowered."<sup>1</sup>

*"We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."— C.S. Lewis, **The Problem of Pain***

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<sup>1</sup> France, R. T. (2013). [Luke](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 381). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

- Notice these men were leaving Jerusalem even after hearing the testimony of his resurrection. Even Peter seemed surprised. (Vs. 12)
- The circumstances you face aren't nearly as important as the conclusions you draw.
- Jesus Challenged their assumptions. They were suffering under something that was not true. Wrong thinking always leads to wrong living. It leads to fear.
- They wanted Jesus to wear a crown, not hanging from a cross. They wanted Jesus on an earthly throne rather than wearing a crown of thorns.
- Jesus did not come to make your life better. He came to save your soul. But praise God, life is so much better being saved by Jesus Christ.
- Easter is not just a holiday. The resurrection is our identity as Christ Followers. We are met to be living in the power of the resurrection. Hope for today, not just for tomorrow.

## **2. Hope Through Faith (Luke 24:25-31)**

- Jesus takes his followers back to the Word of God.
- Trails are temporary, But God is forever.
- One must have a personal encounter with the Risen Savior to see the reality of eternity.

**24:30** *he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. This was the host's role, but Jesus naturally assumes that position. The verbs used are virtually the same as in 9:16; 22:19. We do not know whether these two disciples had been present at the Last Supper, but no doubt Jesus had followed the same familiar procedure at any other meal where they had been present with him.<sup>2</sup>*

## **3. Hope Moves us to Action (Luke 24:32-34)**

- Their "hearts" burned as they heard the scriptures explained.
- Within the hour, they were on their way back to Jerusalem. (Vs. 33)
- They sought out other believers and gathered with them.
- "The Lord has really risen!"

<sup>11</sup> *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Romans 8:11*

**One Last Thought:** May we live in the power of the resurrection. The resurrection, is not just an event, it defines us as believers. We are resurrection people.

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<sup>2</sup> France, R. T. (2013). [Luke](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 383). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.