

Stories of Resurrection: Seeing Jesus

Luke 24:13-55 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 11 April 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is the longest walk you have ever taken and what was noteworthy about that walk?

Worship: [Psalm 34:8-10](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 24:13-55](#) (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

The shadow of death is dark; its valleys, very low. It can make our lives feel temporary, empty – even hopeless. Because of our mortality, a question lies dormant in our souls. Once aroused, it grabs hold of us, weighing us down until we answer it: “Is there any meaning in life that the inevitable death awaiting us does not destroy?” Put another way: “What will come of our lives? Why live, wish, or do anything?” Whether our sense of death is acute or lies dormant, there is only One who offers a worthy answer. Because the resurrection changes *everything*. It offers eternal hope. And so, in the light of Easter, we must consider how we too can experience the Risen Christ.

As we express our need for Him // The first to encounter the Resurrected Jesus are hardly identified. Their relative anonymity should bring us comfort; they could have been any Christ follower – any of us, really. Their need to see Him is a need we all share: the need for Jesus to love us and meet our needs. And so we must confront our needs. Because if we want a real savior, we must accept our need for one, acknowledging our real sin and brokenness. This is a call to lean into Easter like never before – because our Savior shows up in the midst of our need.

As we live in community with His people // We encounter the Risen Jesus in the company of His people. It's subtle; it's beautiful; it's significant. We see it in the resurrection stories described in the gospels. Christ appears to a group or to an individual so that he or she can then bless the group of saints around them. Jesus loves to appear as we are with His people, bearing each other's burdens in community, giving of ourselves, serving one another, and fulfilling the law of Christ. This means that the more we struggle with doubt, fear, pain... the more we must resist the temptation to pull away from others. What we need most in our darker moments is to surround ourselves with loving brothers and sisters in Christ. To lean on their faith when our own feels woefully inadequate.

In the breaking of the bread // When the disciples gathered after the resurrection, Jesus would often appear and speak to them. Sometimes, He would share a meal with them. And for some, like those who met Him on the road to Emmaus, it wasn't until Jesus broke bread that He was recognized and celebrated. The sacred breaking of bread reminds us how desperately we need Christ. It's the very reason we partake in the Lord's Supper every Sunday. We need it to replace the meal Adam and Eve chose in the garden. Because we too are prideful and greedy and inadequate and frail. It reminds us of our need, then satisfies us in the space created by that hunger and yearning.

As the Scriptures are opened up to us // “We listen to scripture's teaching not so that we might learn stuff, but so that we might see Him in such ways that our hearts burn within us. We are invited to listen to the exposition of the Bible, to our hearts burning within us as fresh truth comes out of the old pages and sets us on fire.” NT Wright describes what happened to those who spoke with the Risen Christ and what can happen to us as we immerse ourselves in God's Word. What has happened with Jesus can only be understood in light of the Scriptures, yet the Bible itself can be understood only in light of what has happened with Jesus. May we have our eyes opened to the depths and majesty of Scripture, filled with joy, because Christ rose from the dead, and everything has changed.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

We See and Experience the Risen Christ - When We Express Our Need For Him

- Discuss as a group what it must have been like for these two people on their walk to Emmaus.
 - How are you like these two? How have you expressed your need for Jesus?
- Why do you think they were unable to “see” Jesus when he joined them?
 - If Jesus were to walk a few miles with you today, what would you talk with Him about?

We See and Experience the Risen Christ - When We Live in Community With His People

- Considering that most of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances were to groups of people or to individuals who were to go tell groups, what value do you think God places on the role of community for His people?
 - Tell stories about how being in community with God's people has helped you to see and experience Jesus more clearly.

We See and Experience the Risen Christ - When He Breaks Bread for Us

- Read verse 30. What does this remind you of? Why do you think Jesus chose that moment to open the eyes of Cleopas and his friend?
- Why do we not need the physical presence of Jesus to “see and experience” Him today?
 - How does participating in the Lord's Supper together at a worship service help us see Him.

We See and Experience the Risen Christ - When Scripture is Opened to Us

- Tell about a time when you experienced the heartburn of verse 32.
- Why do you think Jesus takes the time to re-explain the scriptures from Moses to the Prophets instead of just revealing who He was?
 - Do you spend adequate time in the Bible to “see” Jesus regularly?
- Which of these four avenues to seeing and experiencing Jesus would you like to explore more and why?
 - What do you feel Jesus personally inviting you to?

Prayer For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon ([site](#) | [book](#)).

As we focus on Generous Hospitality for several weeks, here are a couple of questions we can ask ourselves:

- 1) Do I live at a pace that allows me to be available to those around me?
- 2) If not, are all the things I'm doing more important than taking the Great Commandment literally?

For those of you who missed the Generous Hospitality Seminar, here is Dave Runyon's portion. Click [Here](#) to listen.