



4/3/26

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished we talked about how the gospel changes EVERYTHING... our destiny, our purpose, and our hope. This is so important to know on this Good Friday. It's only good because of Sunday... when Jesus rose from the grave. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 24:13-35

I love this passage because I get to focus on Jesus AFTER His resurrection. The fact is, I never have to feel the full weight of His death like the disciples did because I am looking back in history. They did not understand that He would rise on the third day. I don't ever want to take my understanding for granted. Jesus pursued us from beginning to end. He pursued us all the way to the cross, He pursued the believers AFTER His resurrection, and He pursues me today. Praise His name.

I grieve Good Friday... that He had to go through that for me, taking the sins of the whole world and the full wrath of the Father on His sinless, perfect, innocent body. The physical pain He suffered was just a pin prick compared to the repulsive, horrific pain of the sin and wrath He took on Himself. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For OUR sake, He (the Father) made Him (Jesus) to BE sin who knew NO sin, SO THAT in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Praise His name FOREVER!!!

On this day in Luke 24, two men who were followers of Jesus, but not one of His 12 disciples, were walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem. They were probably walking with that tired, shoulders dropped, hopeless walk that people have when they're depressed and confused.

These guys didn't understand that Jesus had risen. They heard the women say that angels met them at the tomb where the stone was rolled away and said, "Jesus is alive!" But they clearly didn't believe it. They were probably discussing who in the world could have taken His body! I mean, the tomb had been sealed with a stone and soldiers were assigned to guard it. What

happened???

While they were walking the seven miles to Emmaus that probably felt like a hundred, Jesus came up and said, "Hey guys! Whatcha talkin' bout?" JESUS PURSUED THEM!!! JESUS WALKED WITH THEM!!!

Their eyes were "kept from recognizing Him." God allowed for them not to grasp who He was in the moment BECAUSE He was going to surprise them with something more incredible... as I will see. Let me never ever think that if God SEEMS distant, it means He IS distant. He is never far from me. If He's quiet it's because He has something greater to show me. O Lord, please help me to remember that and believe it when You FEEL most absent. You are right here with me.

Jesus asked them what they were talking about, and their response was kind of arrogant... like they were in the know and this stranger had no clue. "Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are You the ONLY visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'"

Jesus could have responded, "Uhhh... no... I KNOW... I'm the one who created you, came for you, died for you, and rose for you." But He just said, "What things?"

"Things all about Jesus of Nazareth! He WAS a powerful, miracle making prophet in the sight of God and man! BUT the religious leaders and rulers killed HIM! They crucified Him!" These guys were thinking that religious leaders and rulers were more powerful than Jesus! Yeah... I often think that, too. Silly me.

They said, "We had HOPED that He was the one to redeem Israel." What they didn't understand is, they were setting their sights way too small!!! He IS the Redeemer of Israel AND ALSO the whole world!!! He IS the Redeemer of ALL who confess Him as Lord!!!

They were so sad and hopeless that they ignored the words of the women who told them what the angels had said. The two men said that some of them even went to the tomb to see if it was true and STILL figured there must be some other explanation. Sure, while He was alive, Jesus could raise someone from the dead. But no way He could be raised from the dead!

Jesus spoke truth... "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" Haven't you read the prophets like Isaiah? "He was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquity... By His wounds we are healed." Jesus spoke of the scriptures with the same understanding and authority concerning Himself that He spoke in their presence countless times. They still didn't see. But they kept walking with Jesus and He kept sharing.

He who had pursued them gave them an opportunity to welcome Him. When they reached the village, Jesus gave them the opportunity to let Him walk away reject His words, but they knew

enough to invite Him to have a meal with them. When was it that they finally recognized Jesus??? When He blessed the bread and broke the bread with them. It was at that moment their eyes were opened and His mission was completed... and He disappeared from their sight.

Jesus, who said, "I AM the bread of life," and who said on the night of His arrest just a few days before, "This bread is My body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me," revealed Himself to them when He broke the bread!!! How cool is that!!!

And what did they do as soon as they recognized Jesus? They BOOKED IT back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what happened!!! When Jesus touches my life, I can't help but talk about it!!!

In 1 John 1:5, John said, "We are writing these things to you so that our joy may be complete." There is such joy in being able to encourage others with the truth of Jesus. I have that joy and excitement all the time! It feels like what I learn is not complete until I get to tell someone. My poor husband has to hear my every "ah ha" moment. But my hope and prayer is that my ah ha moments with God's word will encourage others to draw closer to Him. And their ah ha moments will encourage me in my faith.

What completed the two men's joy was running back to Jerusalem and telling the disciples, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" That's kinda cool. There is no record in the gospels of that interaction between Jesus and Simon Peter. But it happened. And these men confirmed what the women and Peter must have said. And then they told the others what happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus, the bread of life, revealed Himself to them when He broke bread with them.

O Lord, I am so thankful that You pursue ALL who are in need of the bread of life. I'm so thankful that You pursue me. I pray that I will never question Your involvement even when I can't see it... that I will never think any person or circumstance can tear You down or stop Your purpose. And I pray that it will always be my joy to share the good news of the gospel. Amen.