

“Eyes Wide Open”

Mount of Olives | May 3, 2026 | Luke 24:28-35

Pastor Jim Reynen

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, on this Communion Sunday, we seek a deeper communion with You. Please open our spiritual eyes so that we may understand and know You more completely. Help us to be humble and ready to change, so that our actions better reflect Your love. Please bring people into our lives who can help us become more like You each day. And guide us in using the resources provided by this church – to be drawn into a closer relationship with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture Reading Introduction:

"After the resurrection of Jesus, two of His followers were on the road walking to a town called Emmaus. They were discouraged and confused. They had seen Jesus crucified and now some have said that they saw Him alive. Along the way, a stranger joined them - He asked some questions and then began to explain the scriptures to them. Little did they know it was Jesus. The story continues in verse 28"

Luke 24:28-35

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Message Notes

Mark 4:10-12

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that "they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.' "

Isaiah 6:9-10

And he said, "Go and say to this people: "Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed."

Matthew 13:14-17

With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: "You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

Luke 24:28-35

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Study Questions – Read Luke 24:28-35

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. If you could take a long walk and talk with anyone (past, present, or future), who would it be and why?
2. Have you ever looked back on a situation and realized something important you didn't see in the moment?

Based on Luke 24:28-35, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Luke 24:28-35**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Why do you think the two disciples urged Jesus to stay with them in verse 29?
2. What is significant about Jesus being "recognized" in the breaking of the bread (v. 30–31)?
3. Why do you think their eyes were kept from recognizing Jesus earlier in the story?
4. What does this passage reveal about how Jesus reveals Himself to people?
5. In verse 32, the disciples say their "hearts were burning." What do you think that means?
6. How does Jesus use Scripture earlier in the chapter (v. 27) to prepare them for this moment?
7. Why do you think Jesus disappeared immediately after they recognized Him?
8. What does the disciples' immediate return to Jerusalem (v. 33) show about their response?
9. How does this passage connect to themes of resurrection and belief in the Gospel of Luke?
10. What role does fellowship (sharing a meal) play in this encounter?

11. How does this story demonstrate the importance of understanding Scripture?

12. What evidence of transformation do you see in the disciples from the beginning to the end of this passage?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. Are there areas in your life where Jesus might be present, but you're not recognizing Him?

2. What does it look like for your "heart to burn" for God's Word today?

3. How can you become more attentive to God's presence in everyday moments?

4. When you experience something meaningful with God, do you share it with others like the disciples did? Why or why not?

5. What practical steps can you take this week to grow in understanding Scripture and recognizing Jesus more clearly?