

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**The Road to Emmaus**

- It had been = roller-coaster few weeks = for disciples
 - Their minds replayed scenes = could not erase
 - Triumphal entry into Jerusalem = crowds shouting
 - palm branches waving / hope swelling
 - Cleansing of / temple = intimacy of Last Supper
 - When Jesus spoke words they didn't yet understand
 - His anguished prayers in Gethsemane = Judas' cold betrayal
 - Illegal trial = mocking laughter = brutal beating
 - Sight of Jesus' bruised body hanging on Roman cross = as afternoon sky turned black = His final words = earth trembling = tearing of temple curtain = open graves = hurried burial before Sabbath
 - And then = **SILENCE**
 - Confusion followed = Discouragement settled in
 - Questions flooded their minds = How had we gotten it so wrong?
 - To disciples = this was not just / setback—felt like end of everything they had believed = they had trusted Jesus was = promised Messiah
- Luke 24:21** But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.
- They had staked their future on Him
 - And now = hope seemed buried behind / sealed stone
 - What they could not see was that this moment—this crushing disappointment—was merely / chapter in / greatest story ever told
 - **Luke 24** = ON road to Emmaus = two of Jesus' followers walked away from Jerusalem carrying grief / shattered expectations
 - Jesus came near / walked with them—but **LUKE 24:16** tell us
 - “their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him”
 - Isn't that often how it is? Jesus is closer than we realize
 - yet our sorrow = blinds us to = His presence
 - As they talked = Jesus listened = He asked questions

Luke 24:17 “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

- He allowed them to speak / their disappointment / out loud
- One of them answered w/ painful honesty = explaining everything they had hoped for / everything they believed = had gone wrong
 - From their perspective = story was over
 - From Jesus’ perspective = it was unfolding exactly as planned
- **Luke 24:27** tells us that beginning at Moses and all Prophets, Jesus explained Scriptures concerning Himself.
- He did not rush to reveal who He was
- Instead = He reframed their suffering thru God’s Word
- He showed them = cross was not / mistake—it was fulfillment
- Very event they thought had destroyed their hope
 - means by which God was saving / world
- **Luke 24:33–34** Later, when their eyes were opened, the two disciples rushed back to Jerusalem = hearts burning = eager to share what had happened on the road
- When Jesus appeared among / larger group = they were terrified
- Fear replaced confusion = Jesus asked question / still echoes today

Luke 24:38 Why are you troubled / why do doubts arise in your hearts?

- Question / one a rebuke = rather = invitation to trust Him
- Too often = we forget = Jesus walks beside us in our valleys
- Too often = we don’t recognize Him = assume we understand what’s happening in our lives / better than He does
- We see loss / where He sees preparation = we see delay / where He sees design = we see cross / He sees resurrection
- Scripture gives us steady counsel = for moments of setback

Romans 8:28 “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

- Not all things / good = but God is at work / in all things
- **Philippians 4:4–13** calls us to rejoice = not because circumstances are easy / but because Christ is present

Phil 4:13 *Prison* “I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me”

- Strength does not come from control = comes from Christ

James 1:2 “Count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”

- Feels almost impossible in pain = but from His perspective
 - Trials produce endurance = endurance shapes / mature faith
- Even setbacks = tools in God’s hands

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

- God does not wait for our strength = He meets us in our need

2 Cor 1:4 God comforts us in our tribulation, so we can comfort others

Three messages emerge = share w/someone facing setbacks right now

First = setbacks do not mean abandonment = Jesus walked w/disciples even when they didn’t recognize Him = walks with us still

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart

Second = confusion does not cancel God’s plan/disciples interpreted circumstances incorrectly = but God was still accomplishing His purpose

Third = weakness is not / end = doorway to deeper trust

God’s grace / not theoretical = it is sufficient for today

Lamentations 3:22–23 His love/mercy/compassion new every morning

- Road to Emmaus reminder = faith does not mean we never question
- Means we keep walking / even when our hearts are heavy
- Means we allow Jesus = to interpret our story = thru His Word
 - rather than interpreting God = thru our pain
- When you feel troubled / doubts arise in your heart = remember
- There is more to / story = Jesus is closer / than you think
- Chapter you are living now—however painful = is not / final one
- Same Lord who turned / disciples’ greatest disappointment
 - into resurrection hope / still writes stories of redemption
- Let Him walk w/ you = Let Him speak thru His Word
- Trust that your story = is far from over