

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Title: "You Missed Something"

Introduction: This is the last week of our Tour of the Holy Land. It's about time to fly home, but we don't want to miss our last stop. It's a small town just 7 or 8 miles outside of Jerusalem. Actually, the road between Jerusalem and this small town is pretty important too!

First, we will backtrack ... (MAP) Flew into Tel Aviv and visited Joppa and Caesarea by the Sea (Acts 10) with Peter and Cornelius (Gentiles) ... North east to Nazareth and on to Galilee. From Galilee we went north to Caesarea Philippi which was a place where many gods were worshipped and Peter declared Jesus the Son of the Living God. From the 5<sup>th</sup> week on we have been in and around Jerusalem according to the Book of Mark ... following some of the events of the last week of Jesus life here on earth. Last week Jesus was on trial in the home of the High Priest, Caiaphas. Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times... catch any you have missed at: [www.bmzchurch.org](http://www.bmzchurch.org).

Today we are going to fast forward a couple of days ... AFTER we PRAY!

**PRAY NOW!**

Do you all have any assumptions about Who Jesus Is? I know that I do. I know that I assume that God will for some reason take care of me and my family and keep my children all healthy and safe ... because I am such a holy guy!

I assume that God will take care of Sarah and me financially ... not because we are financial whizzes, but because we have tithed to the Church for so long. We've given to the Kingdom; certainly God would not let us hurt financially.

I assume that God likes the weather that I like. If I want it to be sunny outside for some outdoor event (Beinborn's Backyard!) and I pray for it to be sunny, wouldn't God answer my prayers over the prayers of the farmers in the area praying for rain?!?

I assume that God hears my prayers more than the prayers of parents from other towns. God cares greatly about Boscobel Softball and when my daughter is up to bat, it doesn't matter what the prayers are of the opposing pitcher's parents!

There are times that we get so focused on what WE want that we miss out on what GOD might want. We get so discouraged because things aren't going the way WE thought they would that we miss out on the understanding that God probably has an even better plan!

At this time I invite you to take the insert out of your passport/program. On one side you will find our Scripture for today and on the other is an outline with some blanks to fill in. I hope you will take time to fill those in and write down whatever other notes you think might help you on your faith journey. Take it home and hang it on your refrigerator or your mirror or your car visor ... then you can read the scripture again this week and be reminded of what we've learned today. For those of you listening on line, you can download our passport/program, print it off and then you too can fill in the blanks...

This is our last day on our Holy Land Tour. We have spent the majority of the past 8 weeks following Jesus as He walked the land. I thought it would be a good idea to spend our last day walking with Jesus one more time.

Our Scripture is from right near the end of the Book of Luke...

**READ LUKE 24:13-35 NOW!**

**I. Cleopas and Friend**

A. Who Were They?

1. Well, Cleopas and his friend or brother had to be some sort of close followers of Jesus.
2. A couple of reasons I say this: First, they had heard about the empty tomb according to the women “from their group”...
3. Second, later in the story it looks like they had free access to the 11 Disciples/Apostles.

B. Where Were They Going?

1. It was Sunday and it appears that they were headed home after the Passover Celebration.
2. The celebration would have lasted up to the Sabbath and remember, according to the Jewish Law, one could only travel a few hundred yards on the Sabbath. These two had 7 or 8 miles to travel back home.
3. After all of the excitement on Friday, there would not have been time to travel home in the light ... dangerous traveling at night because of robbers.

C. What Were They Talking About?

1. Have you ever been around men when they get on a subject that is really interesting to them? They will talk the facts into the ground ... they will repeat themselves numerous times ... agree with each other ... repeat what someone else has already said and then take the horse out for another beating.
2. I think women do the same thing...
3. But, when men are passionate about something, they will evaluate it and re-evaluate it and try to convince each other that what they all hope for is true. (Ex. I think the Packers 3-4 defense is going to shine, even against new Bears quarterback Jay Cutler! Besides that, I think that the running and passing combination of the Packers offense will find a way to put up 30 points against the Bears defense ... sorry Bear fans.)
4. These two men walking down the road, we are told, were re-hashing the events of the Passover Celebration. Jesus coming to town as the parade’s guest of honor ... Jesus clearing the Temple ... Jesus confronting the Jewish religious leaders numerous times ... Jesus arrested and tried at night ... the people turning on Jesus and asking for him to be crucified ... the crucifixion, etc.
5. Then Jesus comes up and asks, “What are you two discussing so intently as you walk along?”

## II. What Are You Talking About?

- A. "...sadness written across their faces." (vs. 17-18)
1. Jesus could see the sadness on their faces. And Jesus kind of leads them on... Jesus knew exactly what they were discussing!
  2. BUT, I wonder how many times you and I have sadness on our faces, not realizing that Jesus is walking right with us?
  3. I wonder how many times we focus on not getting our way and miss out on the fact that God is getting God's way (repeat)!
  4. These followers were caught up in THEIR ASSUMPTIONS about Who the Messiah would be (a political/military Savior for the Israelite Nation), that they missed who the Messiah REALLY WAS (an Eternal Savior for all nations and races throughout history).
  5. As we get to V.18 = This is Luke's way of letting the reader know that the events of that year's Passover Celebration were known by the whole city of Jerusalem.
  6. By the way, remember that people of the Jewish faith would have travelled from all over the Roman Empire to get to Jerusalem for the Passover Celebration. That means that people all over the Roman Empire would have heard about Jesus arrest, trial, and crucifixion and missing body.
- B. What Things? (vs. 19-21)
1. Jesus was crucified on a Friday. Sabbath on Saturday. People still in and around Jerusalem for Passover Festival.
  2. Reports come out on Sunday morning that the body of Jesus is missing...
  3. There is a lot of confusion as to what is really going on... the people *missed something*; they missed the part about the Suffering Servant... They were too taken by the vision of the Military Messiah (deliverer).
- C. Witnesses and Confusion (vs. 22-24)
1. Cleopas and his brother then told of the witnesses of the empty tomb:
    - a. Some *women* from OUR group of followers were at the tomb early in the morning and came back saying that the body was missing.
    - b. These women had seen *angels* who told them that Jesus is alive!
    - c. Some of our *men* ran out to the tomb and verified that his body was gone from the grave.
  2. But, they still didn't get it! They still left and went home. If they had believed what Jesus had told the followers so many times (I have to die, but on the third day, I will be back!), they would have not been on the road to Emmaus.

### III. **Then, Jesus**

- A. The Reprimand (vs. 25-26)
1. Jesus calls them foolish because they don't believe the Scriptures! He reprimands them because they don't believe what was clearly predicted!
  2. I wonder how many of us Jesus would reprimand because we don't live like we believe the Scriptures?
  3. Here's the part they kept missing ... "Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer ... before ... glory?"!?
- B. The Bible Study (v. 27)
1. Then, Jesus takes them to Scripture ... Man I would have liked to have been there. Not so much as the ignorant followers that didn't get it, but there for the greatest Bible Study ever taught!
  2. Can you imagine a Bible Study by Jesus?!? Did you catch what the bible study was on? Jesus was explaining all of the Scriptures concerning Himself!
  3. Wow! Can you even imagine Jesus taking them through Genesis and the story of Abraham and Isaac and the prophet Isaiah and the Psalms that predict what the Messiah will be and the fulfillment of all those Scriptures teaching you?!?

### IV. **What Happens at Emmaus ... (PIX)**

- A. It's a Jewish Thing (vs. 28-29)
1. It was certainly not uncommon in those days to have Jewish people invite other traveling Jews in for a place to sleep and/or a bite to eat. They were being oppressed by the Roman Empire and that crisis brought the nation close together.
  2. It was not safe to travel after dark... there were robbers and these two men were concerned for Jesus traveling after dark.
- B. Jesus Revealed (vs. 30-32)
1. Jesus breaks bread with them ... not communion, but just a common meal ... in the ordinary of life (eating), Jesus is with us. He disappears...
  2. Then Cleopas and his buddy/brother have to compare notes: "Wasn't there a fire burning in us while Jesus taught us the Scriptures?" "Wasn't it incredibly special just to hear Jesus speak?"

### V. **From Hopeless to "Can't Help It!"**

- A. I am not doing my job. We are not doing our job, obviously! If we were truly meeting Jesus here on Sunday, we would each be like Cleopas and his buddy/brother ... Not able to sleep even when we are tired ... energized to walk 7-8 miles (in the dark) if that's what it takes ... why?!? To tell people that we have met the Risen Lord! We have a God Who is alive and well and lights a fire inside of us!

- B. I have been here for 10 years. We have anywhere from 220 to 300 people attending worship on any given Sunday at BMZ. Still, in Boscobel alone, there are almost 3,000 people and at least 70% of those people are not in worship (any worship) on any given Sunday!
- C. Why not? Because we are apparently not meeting up with Jesus Christ on Sundays. Apparently, this is not REAL! If it were, we would be at the point of “Can’t Help It!”
1. I can’t help but remind other people that eternity is a *real* thing.
  2. I can’t help but remind people that they are not experiencing all of the joy in this life that they could if they followed Jesus.
  3. I can’t help but tell people that if they put Jesus Christ first in their lives, everything else would go more smoothly.
  4. I can’t help but help people who are in need, because that’s what Jesus tells me to do!
  5. I can’t help but invite my friends to go face-to-face with Jesus Christ because not only is heaven real; so is hell.
  6. If I don’t have this kind of fire lit in me daily, then I’m not meeting with Jesus daily!
  7. If you and I are not meeting with Jesus daily, then we are missing opportunities to make life and eternity better for our friends and family!
  8. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
- D. If we were doing our job, over 3,000 people would be in worship somewhere! I don’t care if it’s at BMZ or not. I just care that people are growing in their faith and are consistently meeting up with Jesus!
- E. Next week, we are starting a new series that I hope is going to challenge us to be better at “Church”. Do you know what we need to do to be everything that God wants us to be as a “Church”?
- F. We are losing the battle ya’ll. The population of our country is increasing and the attendance at Christian churches is decreasing ... there is research out there that will tell us why ... and there is Scripture out there that tells us that we have to change it!

Right now, we have a chance to meet with Jesus ... As we take communion, I hope that you feel a fire lit inside of you ... a fire that would cause you to walk back to Jerusalem 7-8 miles when it’s getting dark and there are robbers out there. I hope we have the same sense of Jesus being right here with us as we break bread together...

Let’s Pray!