



## Keep Your Eyes on the Road

(Luke 24:1-35)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. When there are curves in the road of life, we may feel fear or abandonment.
  - a. Fear: Where are You leading me?
  - b. Disappointment: Why did you let me down?
  - c. Abandonment: Where are You, Jesus?
  - d. We'll meet 2 followers of Jesus, walking their own lonely road of brokenness, fear & abandonment.
  - e. Issue: How do you see Jesus when the curves on the road make it seem like He's gone?
3. Jesus' final week
  - a. (Sun) welcomed into Jerusalem
  - b. (Mon) clears the Temple of sin & false worship
  - c. (Tue & Wed) teaches at the Temple re: the Kingdom of God & His authority
  - d. (Thu) He instructs followers how to remain faithful to Him & to be His Kingdom community when He's gone.
  - e. (Fri) Jesus is arrested, tried, convicted, executed by crucifixion, and buried in a tomb.
  - f. (Sat) Jesus' followers rest & worship on the Sabbath, mourning Jesus' death.

### Do you remember? [Luke 24:1-12]

1. The women followers seek to honor Jesus' dead body
  - a. [1] Sunday, after obeying God in Sabbath rest & worship, the women prepare entombment spices/ointments
  - b. [2-3] But they find the stone rolled away, and Jesus' body gone.
  - c. [4-5] They're perplexed, then frightened by 2 angelic beings declaring: He has risen!
  - d. [6-7] Keyword: "Remember" (Jesus' words).
  - e. Jesus taught them the Son of Man must be given over to sinners (ironically, the religious leaders) to be killed & rise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (cf. Luke 9:22; 18:32-33).
2. Initial reactions to the resurrection
  - a. [8] "They remembered." The women believe Jesus' prophecy that He would rise from the dead.
  - b. [9-11] They rush back to report to the 11 remaining disciples, but written off as fanciful daydreams/hysteria.
  - c. [12] In hesitant hope, Peter bolts, checks out the tomb, finding it as described, and is perplexed.

### Why can't we see Jesus? [Luke 24:13-24]

1. [13-15] Jesus appears to 2 followers
  - a. [13-14] 2 other followers return home, having an intense conversation about all that's happened
  - b. [15] A 3<sup>rd</sup> traveler appears: Jesus in his resurrected, glorified body.
    - i. In this form, He's able to enter locked rooms, traverse space without walking, ascend to Heaven.
    - ii. How our glorified resurrected bodies will be, fully human without fallenness/sinfulness (cf 1 Cor 15).
2. [16] They do not recognize Jesus.
  - a. It's not because they're peripheral followers or His new form; they will later recognize Him (cf. 24:31).
  - b. "Their eyes were kept from recognizing Him": An outside force prevents them, Jesus Himself (cf. 9:45; 18:34).
  - c. Jesus uses physical situations to teach spiritual truths:
    - i. We do not find Jesus; He reveals Himself to us (cf. 10:22).
    - ii. Jesus wants something to happen before He will reveal Himself to them.

- d. When life's road throws you a curve, it may seem like He's absent; He's not (cf. Heb 13:5; Matt 28:20). He's present; we simply do not recognize Him.
    - i. Lie: Jesus wouldn't be here for someone like me. Truth: He revealed Himself to 2 unknown followers.
    - ii. Application: Don't assume Jesus has abandoned you; you never know when/how He'll show up.
3. They have a limited view of Jesus.
- a. [17-18] They respond to His 1<sup>st</sup> inquiry in pained sadness.
  - b. [19-20] They respond to His 2<sup>nd</sup> inquiry with a limited view of Jesus.
    - i. [19] Though mighty, He's merely a prophet.
    - ii. [20] He got handed over (cf. 24:7), condemned, & killed, end of story.
  - c. [21] "We had hoped." Past tense; their hope is gone; hopeless; this is how they see the situation.
    - i. They hoped He would be the One to redeem Israel (cf. Jer 14:8)
    - ii. Ironically, they note it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> day since His death, but they do not expect a resurrection.
    - iii. Their view of Jesus is too small: He is a great, holy person, but failed King.
  - d. [22-24] The women's amazing story & subsequent investigation, but they did not see Him.
    - i. They can't believe in a resurrection because they see the circumstances as too big.
4. We also tend to focus on the circumstances instead of Jesus.
- a. We have a limited view of Jesus and an elevated view of circumstances, especially if they negatively affect our plans/agenda, comfort, security, pleasure.
  - b. Application: What curve has been thrown into your life where it seems like Jesus is absent & your hope gone?
    - i. In what situation are you seeing Jesus as too small and the circumstances too big?

### **Jesus reveals Himself [Luke 24:25-35]**

1. Jesus is revealed throughout Scriptures
- a. [25] They've been foolish & slow of heart to believe all the prophets spoke about the coming Messiah, including His death, burial & resurrection.
  - b. [26] The circumstances around Jesus were necessary for Him to enter glory as Savior King, resurrected Lord.
  - c. [27] Jesus walks them through Scriptures to help them see it all points to Jesus; it's all about Jesus.
    - i. Messianic prophecy: Suffering Servant (Isa 52-53); Son of Man/eternal King (Dan 7:13-14)
      - 1. Resurrection prophecy: The Suffering Servant will be killed (Isa 53:7-9), yet rise (Isa 53:10); Messiah's death (Psa 22:14-15) but not His end (Psa 22:21-25); the righteous sufferer's death, giving up his spirit in death, but will be redeemed to life (Psa 31:5).
    - ii. Types that point to Jesus: Joseph as blameless sufferer/salvation; Moses as prophet & mediator between man & God; Boaz as kinsman-redeemer; Jonah raised from a watery grave after 3 days.
    - iii. Christophanies: Where Jesus makes a cameo (e.g., John 12:41 reference to Isa 6:1-13)
    - iv. Salvation history: Events pointing to God's overarching plan to save & redeem people (e.g., Moses & the Exodus, where the blood of the Passover lamb is substitute payment for sin)
  - d. They received a change in perspective: The circumstances seem big, but Jesus is bigger.
    - i. The proof is in the fulfillment of everything written about Him; He is in control.
    - ii. His sovereign plan is not thwarted; His suffering, death & resurrection are the plan.
  - e. Application: When there are curves in the road, remember God's truth & promises about Jesus.
2. Jesus is revealed to those who respond to Him
- a. [28] Key moment: Jesus appears ready to depart; they're excited about what they're learning about Jesus. What will they do?
  - b. [29] They invite Jesus in.
  - c. [30] They allow Him to lead them in blessing & breaking of the bread.
    - i. Unusual for a stranger to take the position of honor to bless the meal & break the bread
    - ii. Perhaps something familiar about the way He addresses God as "Father" as He prays (cf. 11:2)
    - iii. Perhaps something familiar about the way He breaks the bread (cf. miraculous provision [9:16]; the way followers were taught to "remember" Him [21:9-15])
    - iv. They invite Him in, receive His blessing, remember Him from breaking the bread, believe He is risen.
  - d. [31] As Jesus had prevented them from recognizing Him (24:15), now He opens their eyes to recognize Him.
    - i. He vanishes (via glorified resurrection body)
    - ii. Why He reveals Himself: [32] Their hearts burned (vs. slow of heart; 24:25): they believe & trust in the risen King, Savior God.
3. The result of seeing Jesus
- a. [33-34] Excited, they rush back to the 11 disciples to find Jesus has appeared to Peter.

- b. [35] They confirm Jesus has risen & share their story (providing a biblically-mandated 2<sup>nd</sup> witness testimony of the truth; cf. Deut 17:6; Matt 18:16; John 5:33-39; etc).
  - c. Only after they responded to the Word & believed in Jesus' resurrection did He reveal Himself
  - d. They no longer felt afraid, disappointed or abandoned.
  - e. They turned around to head back to Jerusalem & spread the message of the risen Christ.
4. Application: What if that could happen to you?
- a. When we turn to Jesus in our desperation & disappointment, trusting in the power of a risen Lord, instead of changing our circumstances, He changes us, and we find He was there all along.
  - b. Seeing Jesus turns our lives around to begin spreading the message of the risen Christ.

### **Conclusion [Luke 23:44-49]**

1. Jesus is moving our church to intentionally live a transformative, relational, missional life in Christ daily.
  - a. Many of us are afraid or wounded, waiting for Jesus to show up. He is already here, if we will listen, believe, respond & receive the risen King of Kings, Lord of lords.
  - b. [Rev. Tim Keller] *"The Bible is not a record of people following rules & grabbing blessing. It is a record of grace breaking into people's lives (usually in the form of suffering) who otherwise would never have been able to overcome their own brokenness & corruption."*
2. Guarantee: There will be curves in the road; things will not go as planned; there will be hurt, suffering, disappointment.
  - a. We do not have to feel hopeless, even when we don't at first see Jesus.
  - b. The resurrection is the central hinge point of all life & history; without it, Jesus cannot save, and we cannot invoke Him for present help or future hope (cf. 1 Cor 15).
  - c. But, (Eph 1:19-20) the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us today.
    - i. He is in the business of raising dead hearts, the dead in sin, dead lives, dead marriages back to life.
  - d. The New Testament proclaims (John 14:6) Jesus is the Way, so don't fix your eyes on the curves/obstacles, keep your eyes on the narrow road, His name is Jesus.