

## Easter 2010 Talk at Cherry Street Worship

April 4, 2010 at 9:16 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

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Text: Luke 24:13-35

Lancaster, PA

### *Introduction*

**Welcome to Easter 2010!** For almost 2,000 years the people of God have been celebrating the hope, life, and love we can experience in the person of Jesus Christ. The celebration continues! Every Sunday is a declaration of the reality that God has defeated death through his Son, Jesus. We believe that God is seeking to rescue, embrace, restore, and transform every child, woman, and man into his global and eternal family.

**If you are a follower of Jesus Christ**, welcome to the celebration! If you are still searching, looking to be found, yearning to be loved, you have come to the right place! Jesus is here to meet you today.

**Jesus is here to transform broken lives into healed, forgiven, hopeful lives today.**

- In order for God's Spirit to work in us, God's Spirit needs to be inside of you and me.
- In order for God's Spirit be inside of you and me, we need to invite God in. It is a simple invite, a prayer, saying Come Lord Jesus, forgive and rule in me.
- In order to be able to invite Jesus in our lives, our inner hearts, we need to step out and trust Him. Can you and I trust Jesus?

### *The Text*

**You and I learn to trust people when we see their actions and discern their hearts.**

In Luke 24:13-35 we see the heart of our Risen Lord:

*<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.*

*<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.*

*"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels,*

who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### *Background*

**Can you imagine the disciples' confusion?** They were riding high with Jesus coming into Jerusalem with palms waving, people cheering just five days earlier. Now, they were afraid, confused, dispersed like frightened birds. What happened? Jesus was the Messiah who would lead them to a new kingdom. Instead, he was arrested in the middle of the night, given a hasty mock trial, and sentenced to die before the day was done. Jesus, their Savior was beaten, whipped and nailed to a cross to die. This is not way kings come to power, or so they thought.

### *Born to Die*

**Jesus knew he came to die.** Jesus quietly grew in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and people. Even as a young boy at age twelve, he knew that the temple was his Father's house. At the temple he amazed the priests and scribes with his understanding. As he was mentored to be a carpenter by his dad, Joseph, he was learning his identity and purpose as a Son of God. What were the ancient prophecies about the Messiah that Jesus would have reflected upon? (From <http://www.messianic-prophecy.net/>)

### **His birthplace and lineage:**

- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)
- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23) as a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16), of the tribe of Judah

(Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14), and of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1)

### **His journey as a child:**

- Herod killing the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
- Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)

### **His ministry:**

- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)
- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)
- Preached good news (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)
- Performed miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)
- Cleansed the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)
- Ministered in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)
- *Entered Jerusalem as a king on a donkey* (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9)
- First presented Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25; Matthew 21:4-11)

### **His punishment and death:**

- Rejected by Jews (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7)
- Died a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53)
- rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48),
- betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18),
- sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15),
- silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14),
- being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31),
- beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26),
- spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30),
- piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31),
- being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38),
- praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34),
- piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34),
- given gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21, Matthew 27:34, Luke 23:36),
- no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36),
- buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60),
- casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).

## His Resurrection

- Rose from the dead! (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Ascended into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)
- Sat down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

### *Breaking of the Bread*

**These are the prophecies that guided Jesus** through this life and death. This is the DNA and the rescue plan of the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. The disciples thought Jesus had failed and deserted them. Jesus had left them alone and now they were vulnerable and afraid. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus reminded these two disciples of what the scriptures had proclaimed. *“<sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”<sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”*

### *The Word of God Changes Us*

**Something begins to happen to the disciples** as they listened to Jesus. Their hearts began to burn within them. As the truth of the ancient words washed over them, hope was being rebirth in their hearts. This is what the Word of God can do in your life and mine. As we allow the truth of God’s love letter to me and you wash over us, we will be changed. Are you lost and looking for direction? God is eager to guide you. Are you hurting deep inside? In the pages of the Bible God will meet you and wrap his arms around you. Are you unsure who you really are and what you are to do in life? God will remind you of your holy identity and calling in Christ. The God revealed fully in Jesus the Christ is waiting to encounter you and me with His Holy Spirit in the truth of these scriptures. If you need a Bible please take one from the cart in the back. If you could use a devotional guide or Bible we have some upstairs in the church foyer. Please take what you need.

### *The Presence of Christ Unites and Transforms Us*

**As they reached the town of Emmaus**, the two disciples offered Jesus a place to stay for the night. He accepted and then did an unusual thing. At the meal, he took charge. Jesus acted as the host (even though he was a guest) and offered a blessing. He then broke and shared the bread with them. I am sure Cleopas was surprised at this and wondered what was going on. There is no record of him being offended, rather he and the other disciple were transformed by the moment. *<sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.*

**What happened there?!** “They had recognized him as he was breaking the bread” Luke 24:35 (NLT). What was it about the breaking of the bread that opened the eyes of the disciples?

- Was it the reenactment of what Jesus had just done on the cross? Jesus, the Bread of Life, was given for you and me.
- Was there, is there a holy mystery revealed every time you and gather in His name and share bread and cup? We believe so.
- When you and I serve one another, Jesus is revealed.
- When you and I invite the stranger in, Jesus is revealed.
- When you and I pour out our hearts to God and allow the power of the Bible and the Resurrection to pour into our lives, Jesus is reveal and recognized.

Paul wrote the first century church, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* [Galatians 2:20 NIV] As followers of Jesus, we invite the Risen Christ to daily live in and through us.

**In Acts 2:42 we read that the early post-resurrection followers** of Jesus, *“devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”* **We do the same.** We gather on Sundays to worship, celebrate the sacraments, and to learn. We gather through the week to share meals with each other, to dig deeper into our faith, and to serve others. Our lives are committed to seeing Jesus revealed in our lives and communities. Will you join us? There is room at the table for you.

**Let us pray:** Jesus, thank you. Thank you for loving us from before the beginning of time. You, the Father and the Holy Spirit took great delight in working through history to win us back. You came, Jesus, took our form, ate our bread of hardship and suffering, taught us about how to be connected to God once again, took the penalty for our sins on the Cross, and then conquered sin and death so we can now be free. We welcome you today! We worship you as our Risen Lord and King. We ask your Holy Spirit to come and dwell and forgive and change us in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Benediction:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13NIV)