

Lk24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

24:15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

24:16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

24:17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

24:18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

24:20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

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.

24:22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

24:23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

24:24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

24:26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

24:28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

24:29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

24:30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with

us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

24:34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

24:35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

From today's sermon.

Why do you ask the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen." This was the message of the resurrected Lord. The Lord is alive today. But we are always disappointed when we see Him, as if He were in the grave, our hearts closed in mist, our eyes and hearts closed tight.

This incident on the way to Emmaus is very funny. Jesus is right in front of them and they are talking about where He has gone, without even realizing it. It reminds me of the hymn "Footprints.

"This path that the Lord and I have walked, two footprints for two, but before I knew it, only one was gone, and where have you gone, Lord, I have walked with you here on my back, and you have nothing to fear, for I am with you."

We ask, "Stay with us, spend your life with us, Lord," but the Lord has been with us from the beginning. We are foolish and slow of heart, and we easily forget the precious words that the Lord has spoken to us. But that Word is the key that opens our eyes. As He said, "When you spoke to us on the road and when you preached the Scriptures to us, our hearts burned within us," His Word is the light that illuminates our lives.

Good morning everyone, it is now April, a wonderful season with cherry blossoms in full bloom.

Last week we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. But on the morning of the Lord's resurrection, there was a disproportionate response from the people to that glorious victory. The empty tomb of victory was a source of consternation for the women. The angel announcing the triumph was astonished, and the disciples did not believe it, as if it were foolish nonsense. The morning of victory was a morning of confusion.

And then that day. Somehow, two disciples had made their way to the small village of Emmaus, about 11 kilometers from Jerusalem, the center of the controversy. One's name is Cleopas, and the other's name is not given.

24:13 On this day two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

24:14 And the two disciples were talking to each other about this whole matter.

24:15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself approached them and walked with them.

They had been talking and discussing with each other for several hours of their journey, telling each other what had happened in Jerusalem today.

It is said that the Korean church is a praying church, the Taiwanese church is a singing church, and the African church is a dancing and praising church...and the Japanese church is a meeting church. When I was studying abroad in the U.S., I was deeply impressed by the 20-year-old Christians I met who were the same age as me, weaving Bible verses into every word of their conversations. It is important to talk, but it is wonderful to stop for a moment and return to the Word of God, to pray, to direct our thoughts to God, and to praise Him, rather than to talk or argue.

I was deeply impressed by the fact that Jesus was right there with them, even though they were fretting about His absence and His body being nowhere to be found.

I wonder if it is the same for us in our daily lives. That inexplicable thing, this trouble, perplexity. Puzzlement. We stop at a loss. When we think the Lord has gone somewhere far away. And when we are troubled and argue. When we feel alone and abandoned. We are not abandoned, and the Lord is right there with us. This is what we need to know today.

24:16 But their eyes were obstructed, and they could not recognize Jesus.

24:17 Jesus said to them, "What is this talk that you are telling each other as you walk along? They stood still with sad faces.

24:18 One of them, Cleopas, answered and said, "Do you not know what is happening in the city these days, even though you are staying in Jerusalem?"

Does God know what is going on among us? Does He know and understand and realize that He has to do something about it? Sometimes we take seriously such irreverence toward God.

Our eyes are so obstructed, so focused on practical things, that we are disappointed, despairing, and unaware of the Lord who is right there, right in front of us.

And even though the Lord knows everything, He hears what we are struggling with. They stop and say sadly.

Do you stay in Jerusalem, but you alone do not know what is happening in the city these days?

How is it that you are in Jerusalem and do not even know what everyone else knows?

What is this talk you are having with each other as you walk?

Why is God so indifferent to what is going on in the world, and why does He alone take no notice of what is happening in the world? He is so high up in the heavens that He does not know or care about anything that happens to us. We human beings must have serious doubts about God. Therefore, we may not be able to see faith on earth.

But that idea is completely misguided.

Here is Jesus standing with his disciples, walking with them through their lives, listening to their stories, their sighs, their troubles, and even if they don't know it, God is with us human beings, patiently listening to and accepting our groans and lamentations, and taking all our troubles in his own body. He died a substitutionary death and resurrected us.

Do we know God as such a daily familiar person? He accompanies us in the course of our lives and says nothing, not even hinting at His appearance until the time comes, but only listens to the voice of our anguish, to our forgetfulness of His Word, to our selfish separation from Him, and our carrying our troubles on our backs.

24:19 "What is that?" they said, "It is Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet before God and all the people, powerful in deed and word,

24:20 And the chief priests and officials delivered him up to be put to death, and crucified him.

24:21 We had hoped that it would be he who would save Israel. And this is the third day since it happened.

It is Jesus of Nazareth. 24:20 And he was a prophet before God and before all the people,

powerful in deed and word, but he was not a prophet before God,

24:20 And the chief priests and officials delivered him up to be put to death, and crucified him.

24:21 We had hoped that he would be the one to save Israel.

We had hoped, but he seems to be unreliable. He was so powerful, but he has been dead for 3 days now. How could such a great man have fallen into the hands of the chief priests, unable to put up any resistance? We had hoped that he would be the one to save Israel.

24:22 But some of our companions, women, surprised us, because they had gone to the grave early in the morning. For they said that they would go to the tomb early in the morning,

24:23 And when they returned, they could not find the body of Jesus, but an angel appeared to them and told them, "He is alive.

24:24 So some of our companions went to the tomb and looked, and found no Jesus, just as the women had said.

Then a strange thing happened. What the women said was also totally unintelligible. Not only did they not find Jesus' body, but an angel came out and said, "Jesus is alive. In fact, when some of the crabs went there, they found no body.

What a terrible thing, what an incomprehensible and strange reality!

24:25 Then Jesus said, "Oh, you who are foolish and slow of heart and cannot believe all that the prophets have taught you!

24:26 Was not Christ surely going to suffer these things and enter into His glory?

24:27 Saying this, He began with Moses and all the prophets, and preached all that was written about Him throughout the Scriptures.

We are stupid, ignorant, and have really slow hearts to believe. All the prophets have been entrusted by God with His Word, and God's Word is being spoken. We are really ignorant of it, foolish, slow to believe, and slow of heart.

They are unable to perceive the signs of the times, they forget the important things that Jesus was saying, they do not understand what the entire prophets are saying about Jesus, and they linger away from the Word.

Was not Christ surely supposed to undergo these afflictions and enter into His glory?" Suffering was inseparable for Christ. It was suffering that He suffered for us. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. Do we understand in our bones that it is He who died bearing our sins and our guilt, who died a substitutionary death, and who saves us? Or are our eyes still closed and we are in fear, chaos, and trouble?

24:28 Then they approached the village to which they were going, but it appeared that Jesus was still going on.

24:29 So they stopped him and said, "Stay with us. It is already dusk and the sun is setting. Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

24:30 And when He was at table with them, He took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them,

24:31 Their eyes were opened and they saw that it was Jesus. Then they could no longer see Him.

24:32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us when He spoke to us on the road and when He preached to us the Scriptures?"

When Jesus revealed God's Word to the disciples, the eyes of their tightly closed hearts and eyes of faith were opened, as they were filled with a sure hope that they could rely on the Lord and gain victory in the midst of the reality of their difficulties. The eyes of their tightly closed hearts were opened, the eyes of faith were opened, and their hearts burned within them. They were illuminated by a reddish light, brightly illuminated, and their eyes were able to see things.

Touched by this grace, they do not want to say goodbye to Jesus, and they stop to hope for Him who is still going on ahead. Stay with us. Spend your life with us. We need you. Please be with us. Jesus sat down to eat with them, blessed the bread and prayed as he always did. In his prayer, they must have recalled Jesus' prayer. When they suddenly realized that Jesus was no longer in front of them. Jesus was trying to make them realize that He was with them. He wanted them to realize that He was always with them, even if they could not see Him. So when they realized this, Jesus did not need to be with them any longer. He was invisible, but He was always with them, and He will always be with us.

24:32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us when he spoke to us on the road and when he preached to us the Scriptures?"

Psalm 119:130 When the Word is opened, it shines forth and gives wisdom to the unlearned.

Ps 119:131 For I have longed for thy commandments, I have opened my mouth wide, and I have sought, and I have sought, and I have found, and I have found, and I have found, and I have found, and I have found.

119:132 Be gracious to me and have mercy on me, as you always do on those who love your name.

119:133 Make my steps sure according to Your promise, and let not all unrighteousness take possession of me.

119:134 Rejoice over me from the barrenness of men, and let me not be subject to all unrighteousness. 119:135 And I will keep Thy commandments.

119:135 Shine Thy face upon Thy servant, and teach him Thy statutes.

119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

119:106 I have sworn to keep thy righteous ordinances, and I have done them.

119:107 I have suffered greatly. 119:107 I have suffered greatly; let me live, O Lord, according to your word.

119:108 Teach me thy statutes, O LORD, by the offerings of my three days.

119:109 My life is always in danger. But I will not forget thy statutes.

119:110 The wicked have laid snares for me: but I will not forget thy commandments.

119:110 The wicked have laid snares for me; but I will not stray from your judgments.

119:111 Your testimony is my inheritance for ever. 119:111 For thy testimonies are my inheritance for ever: verily, thy testimonies are the joy of my heart.

119:112 I am mindful to keep thy statutes unto the end. /Samech

119:113 I hate those who are of two minds. 119:113 I hate double-minded men; but I love thy statutes.

119:114 You are my hiding place and my shield. 119:1145 I will hope in your word, and I will not be dismayed.

24:33 And he immediately stood up and returned to Jerusalem, and saw that the eleven disciples and their companions were gathered together,

24:34 They said, "The Lord has indeed risen and appeared to Simon.

24:35 And the two of them told him what had happened on the way, and how they had recognized Him by the way He was offering the bread.

The sun was setting and it was almost time for them to rest, but they were not tired from their journey, and they were elated to be returning on the 11-kilometer journey they had just made. No longer were they at a loss to discuss how it had happened. They go out into the fellowship of Christians with their hearts aflame and full of strength to testify of the Risen Lord, illuminated by the light of His Word and with the joy of knowing that He will be with them forever, accompanying them on the journey of their lives.

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known, and hast thou not heard? The LORD is the God of all time, the Creator of the fruits of the earth; he shall not be weak nor weary, his wisdom is immeasurable.

40:29 He giveth strength to the weak, and to the feeble he giveth increase of strength.

40:30 The young man is weak and weary, and the mature man is weary and falls.

40:31 But those who wait for the LORD will have new strength; they will mount up with wings like me. 40:32 But those who wait for the Lord shall have new strength; they shall mount up with wings like unto me.

#### Footprints

"This path that the Lord and I have been walking, footprints for two, but before I knew it, only one was gone, Lord, where have you gone? I have walked with you here on my back, and you have nothing to fear, for I am with you."

#### FOOTPRINTS

One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,

one belonging to me

and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me

I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

There was only one set of footprints.

I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You,



You would walk and talk with me all the way.

But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints.

I just don't understand why, when I needed You most,  
You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child,  
I love you and will never leave you  
never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints  
it was then that I carried you."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship service. Thank you that the Lord of the resurrection is always with us who stand at our wits' end, speaking your Word, opening our eyes, burning our hearts, encouraging us, and guiding us with light in our lives. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.