

Lk.24:13 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.

April 12, 2026 Luke 24:13–35

Sermon Title: "Their Eyes Were Opened, and They Recognized Him"

[From Today's Sermon]

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee." These very words of the angel are the ultimate truth for our lives.

"The Lord is alive today." That hymn comes to mind.

"Remember."

We are quick to forget the Word. And so we become lost, flustered, distraught, lose hope, and worry. Even though the Lord has already triumphed. Even though the victorious Lord is with us. We are constantly pessimistic, trapped in fear, and unable to see the Lord's glory.

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They, too, found the recent events utterly mysterious and impossible to comprehend, and as they walked along, they discussed them at length and sighed.

"We had hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel."

Their last hope had been taken away, and the two stood there, wondering what on earth they were to do. And there was the Lord, walking alongside these frail disciples on their journey. Along the way, the Lord explained the Scriptures to them.

The same word is used for both "explained" and "their eyes were opened."

"Did not our hearts burn within us while he spoke to us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Here lies the path for us to have our eyes opened and live in hope.

Good morning, everyone.

With such drastic temperature swings lately, I hope you've been keeping well. We've had days where it was 20 degrees during the day and 0 degrees in the mornings and evenings. The cherry blossoms bloomed beautifully, and the falling petals were a magnificent sight.

Last week was Easter.

The angel's words come to mind: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen. Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee."

From last week's message, we learned that remembering the Word is essential so that we do not miss out on the Lord's gracious events. If we become trapped by our own common sense and thoughts, just as the disciples did, we cannot believe in all the events that have taken place, and we end up thinking of the Lord's resurrection victory and His works as foolish, empty nonsense. We have this tendency to quickly forget God's commands, stray from Him, and become lost.

Here, too, there were two disciples on their way to a village called Emmaus.

24:13 That same day, two disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

24:14 discussing all these events with one another.

24:15 As they talked and debated, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.

24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

24:17 Jesus asked them, "What are these things you are discussing with one another as you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

24:18 One of them, named Cleopas, replied, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

24:19 "What is it?" he asked. They replied, "It concerns Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people,

24:20 but the chief priests and the rulers handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.

24:21 We had placed our hope in this man, believing he would be the one to save Israel. Moreover, today is the third day since these events began.

If I were to say what their problem was, it is that they, too, could not accept the wonderful events that were unfolding.

Even though wonderful things are happening, they are once again missing the boat.

Come to think of it, that is exactly how we were when the Lord was not with us. No matter how much we think about it, we cannot understand. No matter how much we debate or search, we cannot grasp it. And things are unfolding in a way that is worse than we imagined. We are isolated and helpless, and the situation only grows worse. We anticipate the worst-case

scenario and prepare to defend ourselves for when that moment comes, but reality turns out to be a situation even more tragic than we had anticipated... Has something like this ever happened to you? Life is elusive and uncertain. How should we navigate such a life?

But what the disciples were facing was entirely different. The Lord has already secured victory for us. He has redeemed and saved us from that kind of isolation and anguish—from sin, error, the judgment of death, destruction, and suffering. The Lord is a gracious God who always protects, guides, and nurtures us. Our circumstances are not as bad as we think; we are not in a situation where we must stand still in sorrow or be unable to take a single step forward. Instead, we are placed within the victory of the Lord's resurrection. Yet we are lagging behind in receiving that grace; we cannot believe it, and even as the morning sun of victory rises, we remain with gloomy faces.

24:13 That same day, two of the disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

24:14 discussing all these events with one another.

24:15 As they talked and debated these things, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.

24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

24:17 Jesus asked them, "What are these things you are discussing with one another as you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

24:18 One of them, named Cleopas, replied, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

24:19 "What is it?" he asked. They replied, "It concerns Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people,

24:20 but the chief priests and the rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.

24:21 We had hoped that he was the one who would save Israel. Moreover, today is the third day since these things happened.

We had hoped that he was the one who would save Israel...

Their sorrow, their incomprehensible anguish, and their inner conflict come through deeply.

But let us keep in mind that they are not alone. Even though their eyes were closed and they did not realize it, Jesus was walking alongside them in their despair. This is something we must never forget. We should remember these passages from the Bible and keep them firmly

in our hearts.

24:17 Jesus asked them, “What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

24:18 One of them, named Cleopas, replied, “Are you the only one staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

24:19 “What things?” he asked. They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

24:20 but the chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

24:21 We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

24:22 But some of our women have astonished us. For they went to the tomb early this morning,

24:23 and when they did not find his body, they returned, saying that an angel had appeared to them and told them, ‘Jesus lives.’

24:24 So some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; they did not find Jesus.”

Everything that is happening is so sad and so utterly mysterious that it is beyond my comprehension. They stand there, overcome with grief. What did Jesus say to them?

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

24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?”

24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Jesus unpacked the Scriptures. He explained the Scriptures.

Just as the angel had said:

“Why do you seek the living among the dead?

24:6 He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee:

When we stand still, we recall God’s Word, savor it, and meditate on it. Even when our

discussions lead nowhere, the answer lies within the Word.

24:28 As they approached the village where they were going, Jesus acted as though He were going on ahead.

24:29 So they urged Him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." And He went in to stay with them.

24:30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and was giving it to them,

24:31 their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight.

24:32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us while he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?"

"Their eyes were opened." This very Greek word is exactly the same as the phrase "explained the Scriptures to them" found in verse 32. Even today, the Lord speaks to us through the Holy Spirit, unravels His Word, illuminates our hearts, sets our hearts ablaze with God's love, and opens our eyes.

By the grace of Jesus, who accompanies us through life, we partake in the explanation of God's Word; our eyes are opened to look toward grace and the victory of the resurrection; we pierce through the dark clouds to touch God's power; and we can always move forward, filled with joy, raising our hands in praise.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father**, we thank You for today's worship service.

Thank You that when we forget the words of the Bible, stray onto the path of life's confusion, and stand still in sorrow, You walk alongside us on that path, explain the Scriptures to us, and open our eyes. Please lead all who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people of our community. Please use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen