

Seeing Jesus Luke 24:1-35

We are reading through the NT this year. Right now, we're reading through Luke and this Saturday we will start 1 Corinthians. This morning we are going to close out the book of Luke in the last chapter, 24. Two things occur in this chapter

- 1 – The disciples find Jesus's tomb empty
- 2 – Two disciples encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus

First: The Seeking Christ. 13-15

We don't know which two disciples (v 10) are taking this trip and we don't really know the distance to Emmaus or where Emmaus is. But that's unimportant to the text and we must be careful not to be distracted from the point of the text – seeing Jesus.

As they travel, *“Jesus himself drew near and went with them.”*

“Jesus, himself” reminds the reader that

- a) This is not an angel. 4
- b) Jesus is resurrected. 6-7

That God is a seeking God is a consistent truth throughout Scripture.

Genesis 3:8-9 - *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”*

Exodus 3:7-8 - *Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians...”*

Luke 19:1-10 – T – It looks like Zacchaeus is seeking Jesus but it's actually the other way around.

*Oh long and dark the stairs I trod,
with stumbling feet to find my God,
Gaining a foothold bit by bit
Then slipping back and losing it.*

*There came a certain time when I
Loosened my hold and fell thereby,
Down to the lowest step my fall
As if I had not climbed at all.*

*And as I lay despairing there,
there came a footfall on the stairs
And 'lo' when hope had ceased to be
My God came down the stairs to me.*
The Stairs by Theodosia Pickering Garrison

Here, in this text, Jesus once again comes to the disciples.

Look at their lives –

V 4 – perplexed
V 5 – frightened
V 11 – doubting
V 11b – unbelieving
Vs 17-24 - unsure

What would life be like without a seeking God?

What would life be like without a resurrected Jesus?

We do not have to know. We do not know. Why not? Because as we saw last week,

- Jesus is like a shepherd seeking his one sheep.
- Jesus is like a woman seeking her one lost coin.
- Jesus is like a father welcoming all his prodigal children.

*I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes I sped;
And shot, precipitated,
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmèd fears,
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat---and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet---
'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'*
The Hound of Heaven by Francis Thompson

Second: The Hidden Christ. 16 & 24

It does not say, “they did not recognize him” or “they could not recognize him” but “*their eyes were kept from recognizing him.*” There is divine intent here.

And it isn’t just these two disciples from whom Christ is hiding – **v 24**

This same thing happened to Mary Magdalene

John 20:11-16 - *But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).*

There are occasions in our lives when we do not recognize Christ.

- The disciples going to Emmaus were preoccupied with themselves
- Mary was overwhelmed with sorrow
- For us, it could be anger, disappointment, self-pity, etc.

There is another way, a new way, an important way, that Jesus wants the disciples to see him, and it will be worth this momentary lapse in recognition.

*All which I took from thee I did but take,
Not for thy harms,
But just that thou might'st seek it in My arms.*

*All which thy child's mistake
Fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home:
Rise, clasp My hand, and come!*

*Halts by me that footfall:
Is my gloom, after all,
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?*

*'Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,
I am He Whom thou seekest!
Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me.'
The Hound of Heaven by Francis Thompson*

Nothing can be lost to the God who made everything. No one can be lost to the God who made everyone. In our finiteness, we may not know where Christ is, but Christ knows where we are.

ILL – Did you notice last week in Luke 15, that when the elder prodigal accused the young prodigal of wasting his father's inheritance, the father wasn't surprised? He knew. He knew where both sons were, running to one and leaving the party for the other.

Third: The Seen Christ. 25-27

a) Patterns of Jesus

The Garden lamb slain, the ark in the flood, the Passover, the manna, and the rock that poured water in the wilderness, etc.

Exodus 15:22-25 - *Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.*

2 Kings 4:38-41 - *And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets." ³⁹ One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. ⁴⁰ And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ He said, "Then bring flour." And he threw it into the pot and said, "Pour some out for the men, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot.*

(What is flour? Ground/crushed wheat, broken to become bread).

Joshua 2:18 & 6:25 - *Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household....But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho*

b) Promises of Christ

Acts 26:22-23 - I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

1 Peter 1:10-11 - Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time^[a] the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

c) The Presence of Christ

Jesus isn't simply patterned or promised. He is actually present in the OT.

- Jesus is the "I Am" whom Abraham rejoiced to see. John 8:56-8
- Jesus is the reward Moses was looking for. Hebrews 11:26
- Jesus was the Redeemer who rescued Israel out of Egypt. Jude 5
- Jesus is the Rock in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:4
- Jesus is the enthroned King whom Isaiah's saw. John 12:40-41

There are some places in the Bible where we see all three of these truths:

- Christ patterned – Adam and Eve were clothed by the sacrifice of a lamb in the same we are clothed in Jesus – (3:21) Isaiah 61:10; Galatians 3:27
- Christ promised – In the Fall, everything but Adam and Eve, is cursed. Instead, they are promised a saving "seed" (3:15)
- Christ present – It is Jesus who is God's voice (3:8-9)

Jesus unites the Bible. He is not absent from the Old Testament, sitting on the bench, awaiting his fourth quarter winning play. He is the player-coach-manager directing all things. Throughout the Old Testament, he is the one and only Mediator of God Most High, marching purposefully toward his own incarnation. Jesus is Lord. He always has been.

– Glen Scrivener

Anytime Christ hides himself it is for us to see him in a different light – **28-34**

No one knows where Emmaus really is. It's far enough for Jesus to walk through the Old Testament with the disciples. It's close enough for the disciples to return that same evening to Jerusalem.

Conclusion: It is not just from the beginning to the ending of the Bible that Christ is present. The Bible is God's self-revelation and in it, he is teaching us that He is present from the beginning to the ending of our lives.

Psalm 139:1-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
² *You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.*
³ *You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.*
⁴ *Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.*
⁵ *You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.*
⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.*
⁷ *Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?*
⁸ *If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*
⁹ *If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*
¹⁰ *even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.*
¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"*
¹² *even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.*
¹³ *For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*
¹⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.*
¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.*
¹⁷ *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!*
¹⁸ *If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.*

The seeking Christ is hidden, only that you might see him differently than before – more than before.

Community Groups:

- 1 – What have you learned from reading Luke?
- 2 – What have you most enjoyed from the book?
- 3 – Where in the Bible do you see God as the Seeker?
- 4 – What does it mean to you personally that God seeks us?
- 5 – What does the line mean, “All things betray thee, who betrayest Me”?
- 6 – Where else in the Bible might you see Jesus ‘hiding’ from people?
- 7 – Why might Jesus do this?
- 8 – What do the lines “Is my gloom, after all, Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?” mean?
- 9 – Have you ever experienced a darkness that you eventually reinterpreted as God’s hand?
- 10 – What does the line mean, “Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me?”
- 11 – Where in the OT do you see Christ patterned?
- 12 – Where in the OT do you see Christ promised?
- 13 – Where in the OT do you see Christ present?
- 14 – What is your favorite OT pattern, promise or appearance of Christ?