

Meeting Jesus on the Road of Disappointment, Discouragement, and Confusion

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 24:13-35

Discussion Questions

1. What makes your day a “terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day?” How do you handle it when you’re faced with that situation?
2. Disappointments, discouragement, and confusion are part of life. Whether you have or have yet to experience it, Jesus can meet you to bring clarity and hope. Read Luke 24:13-53. Discuss the “unexpected” encounter that Jesus’ followers had with Him (v. 13-16). Take note that their eyes were kept from recognizing Jesus. Have you ever wondered where God was in times of trouble, or why you could not “see” Him in those times? Share how the Lord is hidden because it is necessary for Him to do what He needs to do.
3. In the disciples’ conversation with Jesus during this unexpected encounter, their conversation centered on the following:
 - a. Verses 17-18: Jesus commented that these two followers were looking sad. What caused them to be sad? What “event” were they referring to? Why did Cleopas think that Jesus was a visitor to Jerusalem? Have you ever been saddened by an event that you didn’t fully understand because of lack of information? Share with the group.
 - b. Verses 19-24: How did these two followers describe Jesus of Nazareth? What were they hoping for Jesus to do for Israel? Why did the news from the women who visited Jesus’ tomb make them sad? What great truths or lessons has God taught you that you didn’t understand at first?
 - c. Verses 25-27: Why was there a need for Jesus to explain the Scriptures to these followers? How frustrating do you think it is for Jesus that His followers were slow to believe in all the things the prophets spoke about Him? Why are Christians every so often “slow

of heart to believe?” When do you doubt Jesus? What should you do in order to not succumb to unbelief?

4. In this account of the Resurrection, Jesus revealed Himself in an unusual way (v. 28-31). What was it that took place that led the followers of Jesus to finally recognize Him? What happened after their eyes were opened to His identity? Discuss why even Christians sometimes do not recognize Jesus’ presence in their lives. Share an experience when you had a first hand experience of seeing God work in your life.
5. We also see from this passage that Jesus affirmed Himself in an undeniable way (v. 32-35). What did the two followers remember after they thought about their conversation with Jesus? After recognizing Jesus, what was their immediate course of action? When you have something amazing to share about Jesus, do you share and talk about it? If you don’t, what causes you not to? You don’t have to be the smartest in the room to share about Jesus. Just be a witness of who God is in your life. Tell your story.

Walk

In today’s passage you have seen people move from disappointment, discouragement, and confusion to clarity, comfort, and hope in Jesus Christ. Have you placed your faith in Christ and enjoyed the hope that you could have in Him? If you have, have you taken steps to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus and His Word through discipleship groups and Scripture training programs in your church (LifeGroups and STEP Classes at GCCP)? If you are, have you taken the extra mile to encourage others in their walk with Christ or disciple them towards a deeper faith? What can you learn about sharing your faith from the example of the two men in this account?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that many times we are so engrossed in the negative things in life that leave us disappointed, discouraged and confused. But thank you that our Lord Jesus Christ can give us clarity, comfort and hope as we walk with Him. May You give us the desire to know Him better and to share what we know about Him to others. Thank you that by being a witness we can grow in maturity in our faith. Give us compassion for the lost and the boldness to talk to them about you. In Jesus’ Name. Amen