



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

The Whole Story!

Luke 24:13-32

Message #72 of 73 – S867

Sermon given on October 27, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Whole Story!

Luke 24:13-32

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 24**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Suppose there was a movie you hadn't seen and knew nothing about
- If you watched the first three minutes and the last three minutes – could you say that you knew enough to have an intelligent conversation about the story line, the character development, the plot twists – probably not – you don't know the whole story
- And based on that incomplete understanding, you might form an opinion about that movie
- People do that with Christianity – they have some information, but just random pieces
- And then they will say they tried it and it didn't work for them – like it was just another diet plan or something
- Christianity always works – as long as you have the whole story
- And when we are struggling with our faith, it is because we are missing a piece of the story
- Once we find those missing pieces – it will change our lives
- We see that very thing in our text for the day
- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Whole Story!**
- The background for this morning's text is it is Sunday
- Jesus was betrayed on Thursday night, crucified on Friday morning, died on Friday afternoon, and placed in the tomb before sunset on Friday evening
- On Sunday morning some women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' dead body as an act of love and respect

- They get to the tomb and the stone is rolled away and Jesus' body is gone
- The women are surprised by two angels and are told that Jesus is raised from the dead just as He said He would be on the third day
- The women go back to tell the disciples – they don't believe
- Word spreads to the believers who are in Jerusalem – Jesus' body is gone, and weird things are going on – not sure what is happening
- Let's pick it up in verse 13
- **Luke 24:13-16**
- They are trying to make sense of it all as a stranger joins them
- **Luke 24:17-18**
- Jesus can see they are sad – wants them to explain why
- Cleopas says, really? Don't you know what has been going on?
- Did Jesus know? Of course! He was there!
- God never asks a question that He doesn't already know the answer to!
- **Luke 24:19-24**
- It was a puzzle – they had all the pieces; they just couldn't put them together to make sense of it all
- Then Jesus tells them what their problem is
- **Luke 24:25**
- 'slow of heart to believe'
- Jesus is telling them why they are sad
- If you had believed all that the prophets had said, you wouldn't be sad
- Friends, we need to take a serious look at our own hearts and ask the question – 'Am I feeling this way because I am slow of heart to believe something the Bible has said?'
- It is very likely that if we truly believed what the Bible says it would change the way we feel – and that would change how we act
- **Luke 24:26**
- If they had believed Scriptures like those found in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, they would have understood **Isaiah 53:5, 7**

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed...He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth;

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

- Listen, there is no question the Bible doesn't answer – there is no doubt, this book doesn't clear – there is no fear the Bible doesn't drive away – there is no pain, that God's Word doesn't heal – if we will only believe
- In the book of Amos God gave a word of judgment upon the rebellious nation of Israel as a warning **Amos 8:11**
“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.”
- God was going to punish Israel by withholding messages from the prophets
- The consequence was going to be spiritual starvation
- When we neglect the Word of God, we are denying ourselves of what we need to survive spiritually
- And if your spirit is not being fed by the Word of God, the flesh takes over **Romans 8:5-6**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

- Life and peace come when your spirit is well nourished by the Word of God
- Then Jesus does something I would love to have witnessed
- **Luke 24:27**
- Oh, how I want to know what He said
- Maybe He took them back to Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah as Abraham offered his son – picture of what the Messiah would do
- Maybe to the first Passover, and the blood of the lamb pointing to His sacrifice
- Jesus told the religious people that the Scriptures pointed to Him **John 5:39-40**

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

- Every page of the Bible has a picture of Jesus in its words
- What would that walk been like?
- Says Jesus ‘expounded’ the Scriptures = explained – interpreted

- This is one of the reasons why we teach the way we do
 - Jesus explained to them what the Bible said and how it applied to Him – He then applied it to how they were thinking and feeling with a call to believe
 - You don't come here to listen to me tell you about me, my thoughts, ideas, or opinions – come here to meet Jesus and learn about Him
 - **Luke 24:28-32**
 - Jesus had intended to continue on – Where? Doesn't say!
 - They urge Him to abide (stay) with them – and He does
 - And then – as they are sharing a meal with Jesus – eyes opened
 - I believe there is a powerful spiritual truth contained in this
 - They had listened to the Incarnate Word of God, Jesus, explain the written Word of God to them
 - The result was their 'heart burned within them'
 - They were moved by the teaching of Jesus, but they weren't changed until they urged Him to abide with them
 - Many people come and listen to preachers expound the Word of God in the power of Holy Spirit and they are stirred – they feel something stirring within them
 - And then they leave, and nothing changes – the feelings dissipate
 - Why is that? It is because they have not urged Jesus to abide with them
 - Jesus will not impose Himself upon you – you must invite Him into your life
 - The Bible teaches us that the Word of God is powerful, but only when Jesus is abiding within us **John 15:4-5**
- Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**
- These two started out confused, sad, and hopeless
 - They take a walk with Jesus and He gives them the whole story
 - And it changes them
 - Next time we will see that they head right back to Jerusalem to tell everyone that they have seen the risen Jesus

- I have been saying throughout this series that God is writing the story of Jesus in your life
- I have also said that you are the pen in God's hand as he writes out the story of Christ
- It is up to us to cooperate with God as He is writing that story
- Listen, some of you are really messing it up – not letting God write the story He wants to write
- These two in our account today didn't have to feel the way they did
- Jesus said they were 'slow of hear to believe' what God's Word said
- Very often in life we have to choose to live by faith or by feelings
- In my experience, living by our feelings always turns out badly
- As we close this service, I want to give you three things to help you to cooperate with God to write the amazing story of Christ in your life
- First, **Learn the Whole Story!**
- That means you need a regular diet of God's Word – read it
- Reading 15 to 20 minutes a day – you can read the whole Bible in a year – I have done that for over 20 years
- Second, **Believe the Whole Story!**
- The Bible is truth! That doesn't mean we are going to understand everything.
- Understanding is not a prerequisite of belief
- I don't understand how Jesus was resurrected, but I believe that it is true
- I don't think I fully understand how to love my wife as Christ loves the church, but I believe that I can – because I believe I can do anything God's Word tells me to do
- Part of believing the whole story is identifying those parts of your life where you are not believing
- If you are struggling to forgive someone – that is because there is something you are struggling to believe about God and His Word
- Learn – Believe – third, **Invite Jesus to Abide in His Story in Your Life!**
- One of the mysteries of God's sovereignty is that He insists that we want Jesus in our life

- As you seek to know Jesus through His Word and choose to believe what you are reading and learning, you need also to urge Jesus to abide with you
- If you don't; you will be like one of the religious leaders of Jesus' time – they knew the Word of God, but they didn't know the God of the Word
- And then when Jesus showed up their eyes were closed to Him
- The two in our account had their eyes opened as an illustration for each of us
- You will never be changed if you don't learn to see Jesus
- And you won't learn to see Jesus apart from believing the Word of God
- Make seeing Jesus in your life your greatest desire – and you will
- Beg God to open your eyes so that you can see Jesus
- And as you see Jesus more and more, your life will change
- God is writing the radical story of Jesus in your life
- Ask God to open your eyes so that you can see Him, and then show Him to someone else
- **Pray!**