



Thriving in Uncertain Times!

Luke 24:13-35

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Calvary Chapel French Valley

Resurrection Sunday Service

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THRIVING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES!

Luke 24:13-35

Welcome to Calvary Chapel French Valley's Resurrection Sunday service.

- We are glad you could be here with us this morning.
- Also, welcome to those who are watching online.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of hope.
- Most people in the world refer to this day as Easter.
- We are not going to waste time on the history of that.
- Instead, we are going to focus on the spiritual meaning of this day.
- We take this day to remember the most important event in human history – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- On Friday evening we talked about His death and burial.
- This morning, we are going to focus on Christ's resurrection.
- First, just so we are clear on what we are talking about.
- Jesus was crucified for our sins on a Friday morning.
- He died on the cross in the afternoon and by sunset was placed in a rich man's tomb.
- On Sunday morning, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, never to die again.
- That is where our hope comes from.
- Jesus promised eternal life to anyone who put their faith in Him.

(John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- Jesus died and was raised to life – we can trust that if we die, He will raise us to eternal life.
- That's the good news of the gospel. More on that later.
- But first, we are going to look at two guys who are struggling to understand what is going on.
- I think maybe people might relate to these two guys.
- We are living in uncertain times.
- On virtually every topic we might bring up – things don't look good!
- So, how should we live in these uncertain times?

- Let's pray and then look at God's Word for answers. **Pray!**

Teaching

- **Thriving in Uncertain Times!**
- Turn to **Luke 24**
- Our account takes place on Sunday morning.
- Some of the women who had been with Jesus went to the tomb where He had been buried on Friday evening and discovered He wasn't there.
- They were surprised by this, even though Jesus had told them repeatedly that He would be raised on the third day.
- The women tell the other disciples and Peter and John run to the tomb – yep, it is empty.
- Luke 24 includes this account of two random believers of Christ who have an encounter with the resurrected Christ.
- **Luke 24:13-14**
- Two guys, one named Cleopas and the other unnamed – we'll call him Bill.
- Walking along talking about what they heard that morning.
- Then someone joins them as they walk and talk.
- **Luke 24:15-16**
- Cleopas and Bill know Jesus, and here He is walking and talking with them, but they didn't realize it.
- Somehow, they were prevented from recognizing Jesus.
- Bible doesn't say how or why, just that it was.
- **Luke 24:17-24**
- Put yourselves in Cleopas and Bill's place.
- All of it is kind of overwhelming, 'What is going on?'
- They had put their hope in Jesus but then He died – now they are hearing that He is alive. What does it all mean?
- Jesus then helps them to see more clearly.
- **Luke 24:24-27**
- These two guys couldn't see Jesus with their eyes.
- And so, Jesus shows Himself to them from the Scriptures.
- There is a powerful lesson in that for all of us.

- After Jesus was resurrected, He walked on the earth for forty days and then He ascended to heaven.
- The Bible teaches that He will not come back again until it is time to set up His kingdom.
- Until then we are just like these disciples.
- Jesus is alive but we can't see Him, at least not in the flesh.
- But we can see Him in the Bible **John 5:39-40**.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

- If you want to see Jesus today, look for Him on the pages of the Bible.
- **Luke 24:28-31**
- Jesus was alive, but different.
- He had a body that could be touched – He could eat.
- But He could also appear out of thin air and disappear just as quickly.
- This is exciting because someday we are going to have bodies just like that.
- Imagine being these two guys – sitting there with this strange man.
- He is explaining to them why Jesus was supposed to be betrayed and die just like He did.
- And then He takes a piece of bread and broke it and gave it to them.
- And suddenly there is Jesus sitting in front of them.
- I can't even imagine what was going through their minds at that moment.
- And then just as suddenly He vanishes.
- I can almost imagine the Cleopas and Bill looking at each other and thinking, 'What just happened?'
- Then the reality of Jesus being alive starts to settle into their hearts.
- Before this, all they had was what other people said.
- And they realize something else.
- **Luke 24:32**
- As they listened to this strange Man who later revealed Himself to be Jesus - Something was stirring in their hearts.
- 'did not our hearts burn within us'
- What was that? What was burning within them?

- The best word that describes the ‘burning within’ is ‘zeal’.
- Zeal = fervor for a person, cause, or object = speaks of intensity.
- The risen Jesus ignited something within them.
- And their zeal caused them to do something.
- **Luke 24:33-34**
- Something was different now – they went from being sad and confused to being on fire.
- What was different? They had seen the risen Christ. They believed!
- And what was true for Cleopas and Bill was true for the rest of the disciples.
- They went from being sad, confused, and directionless, having their world turned upside down to being world-changers.
- So, my question for you today is, ‘What is the temperature of your heart?’ ‘Can you say that you are zealous for the things of God?’
- Does your heart burn within you? If not, what can you do about it?
- I’m going to take you back to school for a moment.
- Anyone remember the Fire Triangle (#1).
- For fire to exist, three things must be present: oxygen, heat, and fuel.
- Remove any of the three and a fire cannot happen.
- If there is not a fire burning in your heart, if there is no zeal for the Lord, something is missing.
- Just like fire needs three things, zeal needs three things to be present also (#2).
- And if any of those three things is missing there will be no zeal.
- The first of the three things that you need is the Scriptures (#3).
- If a fire is not constantly supplied with oxygen, it will go out.
- The same thing is true for the fire burning in our heart, it needs regular exposure to the Word of God.
- We believe that the Bible should be read daily.
- But the Word of God by itself will not light a fire in your heart.
- The second of the three things you need is the Holy Spirit (#4).
- Just reading the Bible is not going to do much for you.
- The Apostle Paul tells us that without the Holy Spirit, the Bible cannot be understood **1 Corinthians 2:13-14.**

These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things

with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- As we learn to respond to the Holy Spirit, we are putting together what is needed to light a fire within our hearts.
- If you are a believer, you have the Holy Spirit in you.
- For zeal to exist, the Holy Spirit must be unhindered.
- Many things can hinder the Holy Spirit, but the big one is sin.
- The third thing you need to light a fire in your heart is faith (#5).
- But not just any faith – faith in a risen Christ **Romans 10:9-10**
...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- If you put these three things; Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and faith in the risen Christ together – zeal is produced.
- We do not create fire – we simply put oxygen, heat, and fuel together and fire is the result. The same is true of zeal.
- These two men, Cleopas and Bill, or whatever his name was, they felt the fire within them.
- We are living in uncertain times.
- Uncertainty has a way of tamping down the fire within our hearts.
- Most believers can remember a time when they were more on fire for Jesus.
- What happened? Life happened!
- If you are here today and you are not feeling that burning in your heart about the things of God, I want to give you three quick things to help fan the flames.
- First – **Commit to God’s Word!**
- Make a commitment to God, right now, to make reading His Word a daily part of your life.
- Second – **Make room for the Holy Spirit!**
- Examine your life for anything that might be hindering the Holy Spirit from causing your heart to burn for Christ – especially sin.
- Third – **Commit to growing your faith!**
- Faith grows through exercise – believe and obey.
- Seek God with your whole heart.

- God created you to be the objects of His love and grace.
- Jesus came so that experience with God is good (**John 10:10**).

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- These may be uncertain times, but by faith in Christ and by doing our part to grow more zealous for Him, we will not just survive, we will thrive.
- Jesus was raised from the dead!
- Let the truth of that cause a fire to burn within you.
- He is risen!
- Let's pray!