



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

Sermon Title: The Road Ahead

Sermon Series: Via

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/concept

On a dusty road, going away from Jerusalem, two disciples don't recognize that the Risen Jesus walks beside them. His miracle ignored and his greatness unnoticed, Jesus speaks with them as they go – as he often does with us as well. But on that journey, those two disciples are startled by...hope. Even before they know they are with Jesus (!), they are encouraged and thrilled that

- 1) God is faithful,
- 2) Jesus is risen, and
- 3) Everything is different.

Those truths change them and change the Road Ahead.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Think about a time when you learned news you thought was just too good to believe. Share your story.

Reflections on the Sermon

What were your take aways from Brian's sermon?

Scripture

Luke 24:13-35 (New International Version)

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² Then they asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Reviewing the Scripture

1. Read Luke 24:1-2. What happened? What day was it?

2. Read Luke 24:12. What happened? What day was it?

3. What happened in Luke 24:13? What day was it?

4. In verse 14 what are the travelers talking about?

5. What happens in verses 15 and 16?

6. In verses 17-19, what 2 questions does Jesus ask? What does verse 18 reveal about local people's knowledge of the weekend's events?

7. What do verses 19-24 reveal about the 2 travelers' knowledge of the weekend's events? How did they categorize Jesus as they spoke?

8. In verses 25-27 what does Jesus want the 2 travelers to realize? Why?

9. In verses 28-29 the travelers invite Jesus to stay with them. List possible reasons why.

10. What occurs in verses 30-32?

11. What happens in verses 33-35? What information was shared by the Eleven? What information was shared by the two?

12. What happens in verse 36? By now what time of day is it?

Going Deeper

1. In verses 19-24 why do you think Jesus allows the two travelers to repeat in detail the events of the weekend?
2. As Jesus explained to the travelers what was said in the scriptures concerning himself, he may have referenced some of the following scriptures. Connect each to Jesus.

Psalm 16:9-11

Psalm 22

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Zechariah 12:10

Zechariah 13:7

3. What other scriptures do you think Jesus may have shared with the two travelers?
4. Read Matthew 20:17-19. Although this incident wasn't yet recorded in scripture, the 2 travelers may have heard about it from one of the Twelve. In these verses, what events did Jesus himself predict?

For Further Study

1. Consider taking an adult discipleship class at Trinity on Sunday mornings in April and May.

Closing Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus, our Messiah,
We praise you for coming to earth to live among us,
We praise you for teaching and healing while you were here,
We praise you for fulfilling the prophecies concerning yourself,
We praise you for obeying your Father even to intense suffering and a humiliating death,
We praise you that you rose from the dead, just as you said you would.
We confess that we fail to live lives worthy of you.
We thank you that your shed blood covers our sins.
Help us to live our lives in fellowship with you.
In your powerful name we pray,
Amen

Don't forget to sign up for **Super Serve Day!**
<https://trinityconnection.com/events/local-events/>
[Register HERE!](#)