

Sermon Discussion Questions – April 14, 2024

Scripture Passages:

Luke 24:15–27 (NLT) ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. . . ¹⁹ "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰ But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. ²² "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³ They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴ Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe <u>all</u> that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Luke 18:32–33 (NLT) ³² He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. ³³ They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again."

Discussion:

1. Read Luke 24:15-37.

What do we learn about God in these verses? What do we learn about people in these verses? What do we learn about purpose and hope in these verses?

- 3. In Luke 24 we see hopelessness in the disciples, and Pastor Tom made the statement the disciples were probably feeling that hope is dead and buried. Have you ever felt this? What do you do when you feel that sense of hopelessness?
- 5. Except from Pastor Tom's message:
 We are unable to perceive the presence of the resurrected Christ even though he is walking with us unless he chooses to reveal himself to us.
 Have you had a time when God revealed himself to you? What was that like?
- 6. Read Hebrews 11:1. Have you ever had a time when you had to have faith like what is described in this verse? What did you learn through that?
- 5. Pastor Tom made the statement: Life does have meaning but it is only discovered through the person of Jesus Christ. What does your life mean in light of Jesus? How has your hope and purpose changed in light of Jesus?
- 6. Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Redemption is the story. Redemption is the hope. And the one who brings redemption, is where we place our faith. Redemption is God's plan. He works all things together for good, according to his purposes.

How have you seen God work things together for good in your life? What does redemption in your life look like? What might redemption look like for you today?

Next Steps:

Pastor Tom ended his message with:

Here is our point of application in the face of our hopelessness and our failure to see God's big redemptive plan. Live in the power of the resurrection. Be a resurrection, people. Be a resurrection person and family. How? Our friends on the road to Emmaus point us in a direction. Jesus says, "Guys, the problem is not that you don't believe. The problem is that you don't believe properly." That's the problem for some of us who are followers of God. We believe in part, but not in whole. Issues of faith always come down to what we believe.

What would it mean for you to be a resurrection person? What would it look like for you to believe in whole and not just in part? What do you think God is calling you to next?