Eyes Open to the Hidden Plan of God March 31, 2024

*Luke 24:15-31 Easter*

What one sees depends on where one sets up one's shop. Mine is at the entrance of the empty tomb. —W. Paul Jones

Intro: Do you have an obstructed view?

1. You need to deal with the empty tomb to really see Jesus
2. Jesus can be near without you recognizing Him

vv. 15-16 *Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.*

v. 17 *“What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad.*

1. Jesus is probably more than you give Him credit for

v. 19 *Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people*

v. 21 *we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel*

1. The resurrection proves Jesus has power over death

v. 22 *some women of our company amazed us*

v. 23 *when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive*

v. 24 *Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.*

* As you think back to a time when you couldn’t see Jesus as clearly, what do you think obstructed your view?
* Why did these disciples struggle to grasp the empty tomb?
* What do you find convincing about the resurrection?

1. You need to believe the Bible’s promises to really see Jesus
2. Hearing Scripture is a moral challenge

v. 25 *O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!*

1. The Old Testament points to a suffering Messiah

v. 26 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*

v. 27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

1. The Old Testament tells the story of Jesus

Genesis 3:15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

Genesis 22:18 *in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice*

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 53:5-6 *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

* In v. 25, why does Jesus rebuke the disciples so harshly?
* Why should Christians read the Old Testament? What does it add to our appreciation of Jesus?
* Why is it hard to believe that Isaiah 9:6 is talking about anyone other than Jesus?

1. You need to draw near in fellowship to really see Jesus
2. Jesus gives the disciples a chance to get personal

v. 28 *So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther …*

v. 29 *but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.”*

v. 29 *So he went in to stay with them.*

1. Jesus reveals Himself in the meal not the lecture

vv. 30-31 *When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.*

* Why would Jesus pretend as if He was going on and bait the disciples into inviting Him to a meal that He didn’t intend to eat?
* What are the obstacles the disciples might have felt in inviting their fellow traveller to come in for a meal? What are the obstacles we face in growing in fellowship today?
* What can you learn in fellowship that you can’t learn from a sermon or your own Bible study?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5.

Notes