

## On the road to Emmaus...

...meeting Jesus when we have given up - Luke 24:13-36

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened (Luke 24:13-14 – NLT).

We've given up and are going home

- We don't have a solution... so we recycle our problems with our friends
- We are confused... life overwhelms us
- How do you know if you are recycling your problems?

If every time you tell your story it's like a summer rerun!

15 Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them. 16 But they didn't know who he was, because God kept them from recognizing him. 17 "You seem to be in a deep discussion about something," he said. "What are you so concerned about?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces (Luke 24:15-17 – NLT).

Jesus joins us in the middle of our despair and hopelessness

- Our emotional condition makes it difficult to recognize Jesus
- We recycle our problems with Jesus like we have with everyone else...

...not expecting that it will make any difference

18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." 19 "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did wonderful miracles. He was a mighty teacher, highly regarded by both God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders arrested him and handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had thought he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. That all happened three days ago. 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, Jesus' body was gone, just as the women had said." 25 Then Jesus said to them, "You are such foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory?" 27 Then Jesus quoted passages from the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining what all the Scriptures said about himself (Luke 24:18-27 – NLT).

Jesus reestablishes the relationship by checking to see where He needs to start with us

- With the two disciples it was developing a relationship - AGAIN!
- Reminding them of what they already knew
- Restoring hope and faith

28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus would have gone on, 29 but they begged him to stay the night with them, since it was getting late. So he went home with them (Luke 24:28-29 – NLT).

Jesus gives us a choice...

- Continue to engage with Him...  
...or go our own way (withdraw, recycle our pain)

30 As they sat down to eat, he took a small loaf of bread, asked God's blessing on it, broke it, then gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! 32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts feel strangely warm as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us (Luke 24:30-32 – NLT)?"

If we choose to engage... we will recognize Jesus with us

- Note how often it's just a moment... and then it feels like it's gone

33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem, where the eleven disciples and the other followers of Jesus were gathered. When they arrived, they were greeted with the report, 34 "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter!" 35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. 36 And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. He said, "Peace be with you (Luke 24:33-36 – NLT)."

Hope and faith is restored when...

- Their story included the encounter with Jesus
- They told their new story instead of recycling their pain
- When Jesus joined in and their peace was restored

A few lessons - hope is restored when...

1. we lean on what God has promised rather than what we believe or deserve
2. we have friends who push us to include Jesus in our stories...  
...not just agree with our recycled pain
3. we tell our story as a Jesus story rather than a victim story
4. we recognize the resurrected Christ with us

If we live in the light... we don't have to fear what happens in the dark!

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:5-7 – NIV).