

The 3rd Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 30, 2017

“Beyond the Tomb: Seeing With the Eyes of Faith”

Luke 24:13-35

The resurrection of Jesus celebrates more than just a _____ event. Easter is God’s invitation to a _____ life.

Many people live their lives believing that things will _____ change. They’ve settled for second _____—for _____ than what God has for them—and they _____ it in their minds that it’s just the way things were ‘meant’ to be.

“During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)

As horrible as physical blindness is, _____ blindness can be even worse. Spiritual blindness is the _____ to see and understand spiritual _____—especially the truth about _____.

People who are spiritually blind see only what their _____ eyes show them, and are unable to see beyond the physical world to the things of _____.

“Open my eyes to see your wonderful truths...” (Psalm 119:18)

The only cure for spiritual blindness is _____—a prescription that opens the eyes of our _____, bringing life into a _____ focus.

FROM BLINDNESS TO FAITH: THE 3 PHRASES OF TRANSFORMATION

#1: The _____ Heart Phase.

Some of the worst words begin with the letter D:

Talking and discussing = *homileo suzeteo* =

The disillusioned followers desperately wanted to know why their expectations of the _____ had come to such a tragic end.

“We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.” (Luke 24:21)

Hope can be a _____ thing, and when it withers, it’s difficult to _____. Hopelessness, as a disease of the human _____ and human spirit, is desperately hard to _____.

2 REASONS WHY THEY DIDN’T RECOGNIZE JESUS

- They didn’t _____ to see Him.
- They were looking at Him with their _____ eyes and not with spiritual eyes—not with the eyes of _____. Without the eyes of faith, it’s impossible to see _____.

“And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’” (Luke 24:17-19)

Their response to Jesus’ question further shows that they didn’t have eyes to see the _____ standing right in front of them.

3 WAYS THEIR PERSPECTIVE WAS FAULTY

- Their viewpoint lacked a _____, leaving them with only a human understanding of the events.
- Their own _____ dominated their expectations.
- They failed to acknowledge the _____. Although they heard rumours of Jesus’ resurrection, they obviously didn’t _____ them.

Jesus’ response is _____ and _____.

He comes along side them and _____—He gives the two travellers exactly what they needed—He gives them _____ and a listening ear.

Have you ever had a heart-breaking experience?

Have you ever found yourself in this place, where all hope seemed lost—where you were unable to see Jesus walking right beside you?

#2: The Heart-_____ Phase.

Notice the _____ tense—He was—implying that Jesus wasn’t _____ to their present—but a thing of their past.

We’ve all heard testimonies of what Jesus has done in the _____. The question has to be: Is Jesus "a _____ reality" to those who follow Him today?

Life is full of _____, many of which threaten to wear us down to the point where we live our lives mechanically. When this happens, we can lose sight

of Jesus' _____ with us—and life loses _____, leaving us washed out, _____, and depressed.

This story gives us _____ because Jesus is _____! He is the unseen stranger walking with us as our _____ on the journey.

JESUS' RESPONSE

- In His _____; “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” (Luke 24:25), He demonstrates that the two travellers knew the _____ of Scripture, but didn't accept its message as _____.
- In His _____; “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” (Luke 24:26) He pointed to the reason for their _____. They had confused their own _____ with the hope God was offering—they failed to see God's ultimate _____.
- To help them see more _____, He pointed them to _____. “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

The two travellers grieved because they couldn't make _____ of the cross. Looking through their physical eyes—the eyes of this world—the cross went against everything they believed to be true about the _____—it was foolishness.

Jesus showed them that the cross was a _____ act of God, and helped them make the connection between not only the cross and everything Scripture said about the _____, but also the connection between the cross and their own _____.

“In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.” (2 Corinthians 5:19)

The two travellers could risk _____ again because they had a new _____.

Do you need a heart-filling experience—do you need to have your eyes opened more to the truth about God in Scripture?

Have you made the connection between the cross and your own life?

#3: The Heart _____ Phase.

“As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he was going further.” (Luke 24:28)

Notice Jesus doesn't _____ Himself on them—nor does He force Himself on us—He waits for an _____.

“I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

“But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.’” (Luke 24:29)

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.” (Luke 24:30-31)

It was in the action of breaking bread—something they'd seen before—that everything became perfectly _____.

Once their eyes were _____ to the reality and implications of the resurrection—once they were able to see spiritually—they were finally able to truly see—and _____ of who this stranger was became visible to their _____ eyes.

ophthalmos dianoigo epiginosko = “their eyes were completely opened and they came to fully comprehend Him.”

This was more than just a mere _____ of Jesus' _____ features—they came to recognize Jesus in all His fullness as the _____, the Son of God, and their risen Lord—they understood who He truly was!

“They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’” (Luke 24:32)

More than a good book, the latest blockbuster movie, or a great recipe, a heart-burning encounter with the risen Jesus is meant to be _____!

Do you need a heart-burning experience of the risen Jesus?

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“The greatest calamity in life is to have eyes and not see.” ~ Helen Keller

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, then your whole body will be full of darkness.” (Matthew 6: 22)

Jesus is talking about vision and _____—He's talking about seeing, not with our physical eyes, but with our _____ eyes.