

PRAISE INTERNATIONAL

SEEING WHAT IS REAL AND HEARING WHAT IS TRUE.

LUKE 24:28-35 OT READING PSALM 150

Good Morning - Denise and I will not be here the next 2 Sundays - we are traveling on points and had to take flights when they were available. **Logan will be sharing next Sunday and Jack on May 12.**

Please keep Pastor Luis and Jack in prayer as they prepare for El Salvador - May 13-22.

I want to talk with you this morning from a familiar passage Luke 24 Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

We have all heard versions of a Cinderella Story and isn't it interesting how it still captures our attention? When for a moment the girl who had concluded her life was like that of a servant...for a moment we catch a glimpse of another story. A woman whose life is Secure - who has belonging and has become Significant...and then...as quickly as it came...it fades. And the insignificant existence of her former life becomes her lot.

The night before she was a Princess - the next day she is a servant.

- And mattering how it is written or portrayed we find this young woman **based on what she has seen as Real and heard as True** is convinced that this is her life **and her future living a disconnected, insecure and insignificant life!**

Now every illustration begins to fall apart somewhere. Yet beloved that is exactly where we find these two followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Luke tells a story of two Cleopas and perhaps his wife on their 7 mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus – 2 hours or so - **what was likely their home.**

- They are not from the 11 disciples but followers who were knew the twelve - safe to call them a part of the inner circle of Jesus who have seen and experienced the life and ministry of Jesus.
- They had also seen and experienced the past 3 days in Jerusalem that saw the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

As Jesus begins to walk and talk with them you can hear the unbelief in their voices as they ask Him are you the only one in Jerusalem unaware of what just happened?

- As they explained the events to Jesus; *'we saw the miracles and heard His teaching and were hoping that He was the One who was going to redeem Israel and bring God's promises.'*
- **For them it is like the clock struck midnight....and all they had hoped and dreamed was gone...**

After what they Saw and Heard.....it was over - Death always gets the final word!

I was looking at this text earlier this week and began asking myself...**why?**

- Why did they not recognize Jesus?
- His Voice - His walk - His Manner

This inability to recognize Jesus.....not something 'supernatural'

- Beloved I want this to be really clear - I do not think Jesus pulled a Jedi Mind trick.....
- Their grief disappointment and heartache was informing what they could see as real and hear as true!

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

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I mean think about this....

- The very Person they are talking about is with them.....and they cannot see what is Real....
- Because they are convinced of this one thing...
- **Jesus is anywhere but NOT HERE!**

I mean 4 women ‘claim they saw Him’!

- But who can trust a woman - this tells you something about 1st century Jewish culture!
- One man could invalidate 4 women's testimony....
- By the way if you think I am overstating this look later in the text where these two come and proclaim...what the women said is ‘really true’ (vs 34).

Now don’t miss this - the power of believing the wrong things are real and true -

- The goal of the Lies of Hell.

Had some powerful implications

- You can’t be Jesus - not sure who you are but you are not Him!
- When they got it wrong about the Truth of Jesus - **actually not living in reality.**

Inability to recognize Jesus....also meant they had NO imagination about their own future.

- When we miss the identity of Jesus - the Head - means the Body does not know they are!
- Do you see this?
- Missed Jesus
- Even more walking away from Jesus promise (John 10:10) hope and future - life and life abundantly.
- **Unable to see Jesus - unable to see who they actually were.**

This is what happens when we fail to see what is Real and hear what is True!

1 - Is it possible to see and miss what is Real?

Isn’t this the basis of the lies of Satan?

- Comes to Adam and Eve and offers a suggestion about what is Real and what is True?

Isn’t this how he came to Jesus in the desert?

- Let me offer you a new suggestion of what is Real and what is True?

These followers of Jesus - convinced He cannot be there are walking with Him!

- Unsure of what those women saw....but we saw a Dead Jesus!

Their Vision of an Earthly King died with Him - how can we have a Kingdom with a Dead King?

- Not that we have ever had a theology about how God operates that has led us to conclude....**He is anywhere but NOT HERE.....**

When we have wrapped our views about God around the ideas that He cannot tolerate being in the presence of Sin and mans brokenness because He is so repulsed by the ‘wretched’ persons we have become....

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Really?

- Why then did He come to Adam and Eve in their Sin - looking for them?
- Why did Jesus the perfect Lamb of God make company with the most messed up- sinners?
- Why did Paul say in 2 Cor. 5:18-20 the Father was IN Christ reconciling the world to Himself....not counting mens sin against them....

You see it matters how you see Reality.....

- **the One begotten of the Father arrived in the mess of humanity....**

Because beloved if I have heard this once.....I have heard it countless times....

- **WHERE IS GOD?**
- This is confession of a person who has concluded He is anywhere but here!

So I stand with a grief filled man and woman who turns and cries out.....where is God?

- The assumption is He is NOT HERE!
- To the heartbroken addict - NOT HERE

His name will be called Immanuel God with us!

- The one that Cleopas and his wife are sure is gone.....absent...is there!

And He is here - day after day pouring revelation of His beauty and love....

- Where is God? In the midst of the tragedy!

The truth is that the picture of Luke 24?

- Is a picture of so many of us - convinced of what we see and unable to see what is Real!
- What is real - ***'Never will I leave you or forsake you'***

This Jesus came as **Christ the Victor! (1 Cor 15:54-57)**

- **And chosen to relate to us on the basis of His Love and Goodness not our lack.**
- Victorious over every obstacle of distance - sin - death and the grave!
- The New Reality...
 - Death is defeated, Hell is overthrown and Sin forgiven the debt canceled.

I recently was talking with a friend who has been going through an ongoing life crisis. Son with sever seizures - multiple grand maul seizures a day. As He has walked this through...in the past year has come to this place....realizing - ***'as soon as I close my eyes Jesus is there'***! He has not hope of having a dramatic shift - but rests in the God who is walking with him.

- When we See what is Real - ***Christ in you the hope of Glory.***

As Jesus joined Cleopas and his (wife) they were talking about what they had heard.

- Jesus begins to remind them of what is True....and they still are unable to hear...
- I want you to notice **when they hear....**
- is when they sit down for a meal...

Something shifts in us when we share a meal...

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- it is the place we share life
- it is the place we open our heart!

Jesus breaks bread and their eyes were opened....PLEASE notice this

- good theology and teaching did not open their heart - Jesus theology is pretty good!
- Signs and wonders did not open their heart - they had a pretty amazing sign in front of them!

In the actual place of vulnerability - of an open life - simplicity of sharing life!

- Now I am not suggesting we all need to host a meal at home every day....
- I want us to see an 'open secret' - that is hearts were opened by being open to one another.

Now Cleopas and his wife - see what is Real and hear what is True!

Suddenly - the course of their life changes!

- Correct understanding about Jesus gives correct revelation about our future!
- Begin to speak about another realm call the Gospel of the Kingdom!
- They are talking about what is Real and what is True to others!

So Here is the Good News I want to speak over you today

1. Elvis is in the building!

- Jesus came to meet us.
- Even in the places we have thought He cannot be present.

2. To Recognize Jesus is to recognize your own present and future!

Therefore I don't have to live by a system that says

- I am what I do
- I am what I have
- or I am what others think of me...

Because My Security - Belonging and Significance are in secured in the Good News of Gospel of the Kingdom - that declares you and I sons and daughters of God.

3. The Pressure is off!

Jesus is most recognized in our places of honest vulnerability to one another.
In the living of an honest heart of Love for God and one another.

Closing Prayer

Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

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