

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 12, 2020

Something To Talk About- Luke 24:28-42, John 20:1-18

Pastor Temple combined online service 10:30am, Pastor Dan sunrise service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on A *Rockstar Entrance*, Luke 19:28-44?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: Where have you seen signs of hope during this past week?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Luke 24:28-42. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said,

but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In the conversation with Jesus, before they recognized him, Cleopas and the other traveler had faces that were downcast (vs 17) and one of them said in vs 21 “But we had hoped that he was the one who was to redeem Israel.” Why do you think Jesus did not reveal who he was early on at this time?
- Since they already knew of the resurrection (vs 22-24), why do you think were they not more hopeful at this time?
- Do you think they would have been comforted by a message that the resurrection of Christ was inspirationally, metaphorically and conceptually true for them but that His was not a physically or literally true bodily resurrection? Why or why not?
- How is it odd that they were “telling Jesus about Jesus?”
- Have you ever sensed Jesus entering into conversations you’ve had with other people about Him? What was that experience like?
- Since the disciples had been told by Jesus several times beforehand about his upcoming death (Luke 9:22), why is it they don’t seem to get it until now (vs 25-27, 32)?
- How is it that they finally come to recognize Christ (vs 28-31)? How did they respond?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud John 20:1-18.
- Why do you think Mary also did not recognize Jesus at first?
- Why would John include this detail about her thinking Jesus was the gardener (20:15)?
- How are gardens present or used to convey truth about God in other portions of scripture as well?
- What caused Mary to recognize Jesus finally (vs 16)? Why?
- How did she respond and what task was she given to her?
- How do you respond to this quote from D.T. Niles that evangelism is “one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread?” How does such an attitude affect how the good news of Christ is conveyed?
- What spiritual truths have been prompted in you about these scriptures from viewing the two stained glass windows in the sanctuary of Christ Church in the front and in the right transept?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How might remembering this acronym that Pastor Temple shared , H.O.P.E. = Hold On Pain Ends, help you in times when you are feeling down this week?
- How does knowing that Jesus is closer than you think and with you before you know it bring you comfort this week?
- Why do we need to be told something more than once before we “get it” sometimes?
- What levels of understanding seem to take longer or require more repetitions of exposure- intellectually, emotionally, relationally, or spiritually?
- What patterns or rhythms of a devotional life of prayer and scripture reading seem to work the best for you remaining “awakened” to the presence and hope of Christ?
- What keeps us from recognizing Christ’s presence among us?
- What can we learn from Cleopas’s and Mary’s response when they “got it?”

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- The gradual dawning of recognition in Mary and Cleopas encourages us to not give up in talking with skeptics about Christ when at first they don’t seem to get it. In what ways, places or with what people shall we “go and tell” this week?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting