

9-13-20Bringing Hope Back

Luke 24:36-53

How do you combat Discouragement?

When your heart is troubled, where do you turn? What do you do?

Last week we looked at two disciples that we troubled and how Jesus found them. But He didn't leave them that way.

The two disciples went back to Jerusalem with the encouraging encounter to bring hope to the rest of the disciples.

The disciples were scared, confused, worried, troubled, full of doubts, slow to believe, panicked, denial, and felt pointless.

Any of those feelings fit how you feel on any given day? Maybe a few of these feelings in the same day?

"Make America Great Again, or Keep America Great Again" ever heard those slogans?

As we finish up the book of Luke, I thought of a slogan for the situation. "Jesus, Bringing Hope Back!" I think that is one we can all get behind.

I believe Jesus is the only hope. For any situation, the answer is always Jesus!

I. Panic to Peace (vv.36-43)

- "Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them..."
- What was the conversation?

Matthew Henry points out: "Five times Christ was seen the same day that he rose: by Mary Magdalene alone in the garden (Jn. 20:14), by the women as they were going to tell the disciples (Mt. 28:9), by Peter alone, by the two disciples going to Emmaus, and now at night by the eleven, of which we have an account in these verses, as also Jn. 20:19."

- They were comparing notes, the sightings of Jesus. Could it be?!
- "**Peace to you.**" His presence brought forgiveness for the past, joy for the present and hope for the future.
- People everywhere search for those things that bring peace. Sooner or later, usually sooner, each of these prove inadequate and spiritually bankrupt. When this happens, the seeker is left even more troubled and less peaceful than before.
- Jesus first words to this group of bewildered and fearful disciples were, "**Peace be with you.**" Then in verse thirty-eight he asked them a question, "**Why are you troubled?**" The word troubled literally means "to be stirred up." Because they were so stirred up and

afraid Jesus did two things to reassure his disciples that it was indeed Him and not a ghost.

- First, He allowed them to touch Him. He wanted them to understand that He was not merely an apparition.
- Secondly, he asked for and received something to eat. Everyone knows that ghosts don't eat.
- Have you ever asked someone "How are you doing?" only to have them reply, "All right under the circumstances?" Someone has said, "Circumstances are like a mattress. If you are under either of them you will suffocate but if you get on top of it, you can rest." We have a choice to make we can either focus on our circumstances in which case we will be constantly stirred up or we can focus on Christ.

The great old hymn of the faith says,

"Turn Your eyes upon Jesus.

Look full into His wonderful face.

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.

In the light of His glory and grace."

- There have been many times in my life where I had to refocus because I was panicking.

II. Confusion to Clarity (vv.44-48)

- **Read verse 44-48**
- Often as Jesus taught the disciples they did not truly understand one example is in **Luke 9:45, "But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying."**
- **Luke 18:34** when Jesus had explained what was going to happen to Him to His disciples we read, **"But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken."**
- But this was no longer true now they understood really for the first time.
- Example of the headphone game
- I remember hearing sermons preached, reading the scripture, and wondering, how in the world is that preacher getting all of that out of that old book. I just couldn't comprehend what I was reading.
- Once I became born again a light bulb came on. For the first time I was comprehending and understanding what I was reading and hearing. There was so much depth, it became alive and burned inside my soul. It was as if the words in the book were alive!

- As I look around and see the world on fire, I can open the book and it opens my sinful, callous, and fearful heart and illuminates my heart and mind. The Word of God brings clarity to the confusion that we are living in.

III. Pointlessness to Purpose (v.49)

- **Read verse 49**
- The problem then, as it is today, is that the disciples had become so inwardly focused they had forgotten their purpose.
- What we have in verse forty-eight is Luke's account of the great commission. This is repeated and fulfilled in the book of Acts, which is also written by Luke.

Acts 1:8 says "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The great purpose of the church has not changed the carrying forth of the message of repentance. Forgiveness is possible to all that come to God in repentance. No matter what you have done or where you have been God is ready to receive back.

Mark Mittelberg. "Evangelism: When It Doesn't Add Up." Outreach Magazine.

"The problem is that, "most believers view evangelism as an activity either for superstar Christian's who are outgoing, articulate and equipped (like the pastoral staff) or for pushy, overbearing, out-of-touch types who force the Gospel on everyone they meet (like some people they've encountered on street corners), Either way, they're sure it's not for them."

- Illustration of the young ambitious pastor called to a dead church (picture of a coffin)
- I don't want to be a part of a dead church, do you?
- What is your purpose?

IV. Worry to Worship (vv.50-53)

- **Read verses 50-53**
- The sight of Jesus returning to glory in heaven called for a response of worship from those who stood watching. Verse fifty-two says they "**returned to Jerusalem with great joy.**" There was no more fear only faith, no more confusion only clarity, no more pointlessness only purpose.
- They were changed. "Formerly the disciples were fearful, in hiding. Now they openly, boldly, assembled in the temple. Before they were filled with sorrow and perplexity; now they were praising and blessing God." Before they were filled with doubts; now they were filled with faith and hope."

- Is there joy in your life today? Have you lost the joy of your salvation? Are there people or circumstances in your life that have robbed you of your joy?
- Jesus is able to do the same thing for you that he did for his disciples. He can turn your sadness into joy if you will allow Him to turn your worry into worship. **WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO TURN YOUR WORRY INTO WORSHIP?**

Conclusion

His offer stands today.

He will turn your panic into peace!

He will turn your confusion into clarity.

He will turn your pointlessness into purpose.

He will turn your worry into worship.

If you will allow him too?