



heritage

CHURCH

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Luke 24:13-21

¹³That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶But God kept them from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸Then 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 powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel.

This all happened three days ago.

We had HOPED...

All of us have had "we had hoped" MOMENTS.

How to respond to a "we had hoped" situation:

- 1) **Keep the lines of COMMUNICATION open between you and God.**
- 2) **Remind yourself what is true of God and the CHARACTER of God.**

Jesus is PRESENT in our "we had hoped" moments.

Luke 24:28-31

²⁸By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

And at that moment he disappeared!

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Recall and share a time you experienced great joy or sorrow. What happened? How did you handle it?

:: Re-read Luke 24:13-31.

- What can you relate to in this passage?
- What surprises you about what Jesus does and doesn't do in this interaction?
- What is challenging for you in this passage? What do you suppose Holy Spirit might be speaking to you in that space of challenge?

:: How have you seen God take difficult, painful, or sorrowful circumstances in your life and use them for good? How have you seen this in others?

:: Pastor Chris said, “God is the author of joy.” He also said, “None of us escape life without ‘we had hoped’ seasons.” How do you think both of these things can be true at the same time? What other thoughts came to mind as you heard these things?

:: What “fork in the road” is God asking you to trust him in—where you must look to him rather than your circumstances? What next step do you need to take this week to live into this?

:: Identify one person to share this next step with so they can pray for you and help you live in accountability.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Chris Conrad – September 12 & 13, 2020

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