

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

:: **EXPECTATION** fuels both surprise and disappointment.

Luke 24:13-19 [NIV]

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.

:: Jesus may not be **PREDICTABLE**, but he is always **INTENTIONAL**.

Luke 24:33-36 [NLT]

³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

³⁵ Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. ³⁶ And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said.

“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn’t rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.”

— Timothy Keller

Jeremiah 29:11 [NIV]

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Where are your expectations
LIMITING God’s purpose?

How to receive forgiveness from 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 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 “LIFE” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

- :: Share a time you were surprised, disappointed or both at the same time.
 - :: Why did you feel that way? (i.e. what was the primary issue?)
 - :: What did you do in that situation? What happened as a result?
 - :: What would you want to do differently, or the same, if you could? Why?
- :: Pastor Shawn said, “Expectation fuels both surprise and disappointment.”
 - :: Which have you felt more often? (surprise or disappointment) Why?
 - :: Why do you think both can come from the same source/foundation?
- :: When you think of the resurrection of Jesus, what is your primary feeling?
 - :: What do you find most comforting about Jesus’ resurrection?
 - :: What do you find most challenging about the reality of His resurrection?
 - :: What have you found to be the most helpful/difficult part of living in His resurrection power?
- :: Read/Re-read Luke 24:13-36.
 - :: What stands out to you as you reflect on this encounter?
 - :: What do you find most interesting about what Jesus did/didn’t do?
 - :: What role did expectations play in this exchange?
- :: Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. What might God want to show/remind you through these verses? Where could your current expectations be limiting God’s purposes?
- :: Pick 1 thing you can do this week to live into his purpose & plans with expectancy.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – April 10 & 11, 2021

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch

Find Great Opportunities to Connect with God, Others & Your Purpose

– NEW GROUPS LAUNCHING SOON! –

New in-person and virtual Groups are now open for registration in the Church Center App and at heritageqc.com/groups.

Need help finding a Group that’s just right for you? Call us at 309-788-2030.



heritageqc.com



[/heritageqc](https://www.facebook.com/heritageqc)



[heritageqc](https://www.instagram.com/heritageqc)