

Series: ETERNAL!

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Title: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Introduction: WELCOME, BMZ! Glad you are with us TODAY as we CONTINUE our SERIES called: "ETERNAL"! We used LUKE'S ACCOUNT of the DAYS LEADING UP to the CRUCIFIXION. Jesus KNEW He only had LIMITED TIME LEFT with His Disciples / Followers and it SURE SEEMED LIKE He had things to DO and SAY that were URGENT!

NOW, we DISCOVER what is IMPORTANT to JESUS as He PROVES ... "ETERNAL!" Remember last Sunday ... WE are LIKE PETER and the Disciples GROWING in their FAITH ... At FIRST The RESURRECTION sounds like a MYTH or a FAIRY TALE, but IF we will CHECK IT OUT and TAKE TIME to LOOK in the EMPTY TOMB / Get the FACTS ... WE might still WONDER what IT ALL MEANS ... But, WHEN we SPEND TIME with JESUS (The Resurrected Jesus) ... OVER TIME we GET to KNOW HIM and come to the REALIZATION that The RESURRECTED JESUS is REALITY, and ALL His PROMISES, INCLUDING the ETERNAL ONES, are TRUE!

Well, TODAY we CONTINUE to INVESTIGATE the EMPTY Tomb and SPEND TIME with The RESURRECTED JESUS... Many of you know my DAD was a PASTOR. There was a time when we were in the car together around LaFarge and I said, *"We're millionaires, aren't we Dad?"* Of course, my DAD, being a good Dad, replied, *"Of course we are, Stan. Why do you say that?"* My answer was, *"Well, we have a million friends, don't we?"*

I'm BLESSED to have MET MANY PEOPLE; from the time I was a little kid, until today. But, with that blessing of numerous friends and acquaintances comes a PROBLEM ...

Since I was a kid living in LaFarge, I've lived in SEVEN different towns and been INVOLVED ... athletics, schooling, pastoring, youth work, coaching, missions, community projects, music, etc. I'm NOT GREAT with names, so you can imagine what it's like to have someone come up to you in a public place and say, *"Hi Stan. Remember me?"*

Have YOU ever HAD that MOMENT where you KNOW the FACE, but WHERE you know them FROM and WHAT THEIR name is -- isn't happening? So, you TRY EVERY WAY possible NOT to have to SAY their NAME ... *"So, 'Buddy' how've you been?" "Wow, that's great, MAN!"* It's ROUGH ... NOT RECOGNIZING someone you know you KNOW.

LIKE we said LAST WEEK, AFTER JESUS DIED and RESURRECTED, there was MUCH HE still had to TEACH His Apostles. So, we WILL CONTINUE in LUKE and learn what MORE Jesus had to teach his men. AND ... it's ETERNAL!

THIS WEEK we pick up WHERE we left off LAST WEEK. **The Walk to Emmaus**

It's SUNDAY. The TOMB is EMPTY. The WOMEN are ECSTATIC! The Apostles are CONFUSED, SCARED, and THINK it's NONSENSE! And JESUS is ALIVE! LUKE 24:13-18 = ¹³ That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then 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.”¹

CLEOPAS and ANOTHER FOLLOWER of JESUS are WALKING home to EMMAUS (7-8 miles NW of Jerusalem) after the PASSOVER Festival. They’re talking about the EVENTS surrounding Jesus of Nazareth. They’re FRUSTRATED ... kicking rocks along the road. Incredibly disappointed.

They, like many Jews, BELIEVED JESUS was their PROMISED SAVIOR. The one who would DELIVER ISRAEL from their OPPRESSORS. They’re DISAPPOINTED because God did NOT DO what *THEY* WANTED God to do.

What about YOU? Ever have MOMENTS when you PRAY for SOMETHING to HAPPEN or GO a CERTAIN WAY ... and it DOESN’T HAPPEN ... and it DISCOURAGES you? **It doesn’t matter to us what God wants; we just know what WE want!**

Isn’t that WHY we become DISCOURAGED in our LIVES? Things did NOT GO the WAY I WANTED. I did NOT GET what I WANTED... right?

Discouraged DISCIPLES

These TWO DISCIPLES (Followers of Jesus) did NOT GET what THEY WANTED, and it was DISCOURAGING. ***Think with ME HOW much LESS DISCOURAGEMENT WE would HAVE in OUR LIVES if we just TRUSTED GOD and HIS WAYS...***

Okay, BACK to this PIECE of HISTORY. These two guys are walking along ... Now, it was COMMON to have OTHERS JOIN YOU while WALKING in 1st CENTURY ISRAEL ... EVERYONE WALKED ... EVERYWHERE! It was the PRIMARY MODE of transportation ... and there are NO WINDOWS to ROLL DOWN to COMMUNICATE.

Anyway, JESUS SHOWS UP, starts WALKING WITH them and ASKS what they are TALKING ABOUT ... SCREECH! The two men SLAM on their BRAKES leaving little SANDAL SKID MARKS in the DIRT and GIVE Jesus a STRANGE LOOK...

CLEOPAS KNOWS He is TALKING to a FELLOW JEW, LIKELY also LEAVING Jerusalem and The PASSOVER FESTIVAL. At a HUGE JEWISH FESTIVAL like Passover, WORD would have QUICKLY SPREAD about JESUS ILLEGAL TRIAL and EXECUTION (of the possible Messiah, promised by God). CLEOPAS was NOT exaggerating when He said JESUS might be the ONLY ONE who DID NOT KNOW what HAPPENED!

Then we get a TOUCH of JESUS’ HUMOR ... THINK about JESUS asking THESE TWO what HAPPENED ... I WONDER if JESUS just wanted an OUTSIDER TAKE on it ... LUKE 24:19-21 = 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.* ²⁰ *But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.* ²¹ *We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.* ² With his ANSWER, Cleopas does NOT help himself LOOK like a FOLLOWER of JESUS ... Cleopas explains that HE THOUGHT Jesus might be the MESSIAH ... the One who would RESCUE ISRAEL from their ENEMIES.

Then CLEOPAS tells JESUS what HE’D SEEN and HEARD as a FOLLOWER of JESUS... POWERFUL MIRACLES and TEACHING like they’d NEVER HEARD. JESUS MUST BE the Messiah!

What DIDN’T MAKE SENSE was that the Jewish Religious Leaders had Jesus PUT to DEATH. THEY should have been the ONES who POINTED to JESUS as the PROMISED MESSIAH ... and they KILLED HIM.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 24:13–18). Tyndale House Publishers.

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 24:19–21). Tyndale House Publishers.

CLEOPAS = The ONE we THOUGHT was the MESSIAH was DEAD THREE DAYS AGO! Then comes the GOOD STUFF: LUKE 24:22-24 = ²² *“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³ They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴ Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”* ³

DID you HEAR what CLEOPAS just SAID? And CAN you IMAGINE being JESUS and LISTENING to THIS GUY? *“Yeah, I heard there were some women who went to the tomb and claimed it was empty, but I don’t believe it.”* And ... *“Yeah, supposedly there were angels at the tomb that reminded the women Jesus promised He would be back in three days, but I don’t believe it.”* WAIT! There’s MORE ... *“Yeah, I even heard Peter (and John) went out to the tomb and saw it empty, but I don’t believe it.”*

ALL that EVIDENCE, and he REFUSED to BELIEVE! WHY NOT? It wasn’t what HE WANTED! MOST JEWS in the THOSE DAYS (and TODAY), saw the Messiah as a CONQUERING King, NOT a SUFFERING SERVANT. THEY saw GLORY, NOT a COST. They saw a CROWN, but NOT a CROSS. ISN’T THAT STILL OUR PROBLEM TODAY? WE want to CONQUER, we WANT GLORY and a CROWN, BUT WHO wants to FOLLOW a SUFFERING SERVANT, PAY a PRICE, PICK UP a CROSS, and FOLLOW JESUS DAILY? Then, Jesus speaks up and the WORD is REVEALED...

The WORD Revealed

It is interesting Jesus allowed Cleopas to talk this long without interrupting. I think, at times, Jesus allows us to OPEN UP to HIM and REVEAL WHERE we are TRULY AT in our FAITH... Then, Jesus LAYS INTO them!

LUKE 24:25-27 = ²⁵ *Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.* ⁴

What JESUS tells THEM; HE could TELL US TOO! *“WHY can you NOT BELIEVE what you READ in SCRIPTURE? It is ALL THERE, yet YOU do NOT BELIEVE IT! How many TIMES must you READ that the MESSIAH must SUFFER ... BEFORE He comes into His GLORY, before you will UNDERSTAND IT? WHAT you JUST SAID HAPPENED over the PAST few DAYS in Jerusalem, is EXACTLY WHAT was PREDICTED and WRITTEN DOWN for you to READ and UNDERSTAND! What are YOU NOT GETTING HERE?”*

In college, I TOOK an Old Testament class from Dr. Victor Hamilton, considered at that time to be the FOREMOST AUTHORITY on the Book of GENESIS. He had INCREDIBLE KNOWLEDGE and INSIGHT. Every class, Dr. Hamilton would TEACH something, and we would ALL ... *“WOW! I’ve NEVER HEARD that BEFORE!”*

Someday, I’d love to take a TENNIS lesson from ANDRE AGASSI, THROW a FOOTBALL with BRETT FAVRE, a BASS lesson with TIM ROTH... Voice = Mac Powell.

On a WALK home to EMMAUS, TWO Followers had the GREATEST TEACHER teaching the GREATEST THEMES from the GREATEST BOOK! Imagine what he brought out of the Old Testament: GENESIS 3 ... first mention of a REDEEMER. GENESIS 22 ... Abraham lays HIS ONLY SON on the ALTAR to SACRIFICE. The FIRST PASSOVER in

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Lk 24:22-24). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Lk 24:25-27). Tyndale House Publishers.

EGYPT ... the SACRIFICIAL ELEMENT to our FORGIVENESS ... The SUFFERING SERVANT from ISAIAH 53 ... PROPHECIES from Psalm 69 and ... PSALMS 22:16, 18 = ¹⁶ *My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet.* ^{5 18} *They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.* ⁶ Listen, “*The key to understanding Scripture is to see Jesus on every page.*”

BUT ... Remember how PETER gathered the FACT of an EMPTY TOMB, but was STILL CONFUSED / Did NOT BELIEVE? SAME HERE. These TWO Followers HEARD Jesus TEACH them the FACTS of the BIBLE ... a GREAT BIBLE STUDY, but IT DIDN'T CHANGE THEM. We're CHANGED / TRANSFORMED ONLY when we SPEND TIME with the RISEN SAVIOR.

Listen carefully ... BIBLE STUDY does NOT GIVE you ETERNAL LIFE. It is a SUBTLE TEMPTATION (Henry Blackaby) to PREFER the BOOK over the AUTHOR. It is possible to MEMORIZE the BIBLE and KNOW all ABOUT JESUS WITHOUT KNOWING HIM. I know ABOUT JOHN WESLEY because I READ ABOUT him. I DON'T KNOW HIM! Wesley died in 1791. JESUS is ALIVE and WANTS to be IN RELATIONSHIP with US.

Jesus does NOT just want us to OPEN our EYES, but to OPEN the EYES of our HEARTS and KNOW HIM PERSONALLY! A RELATIONSHIP ... Surrender.

Back to the ROAD ... LUKE 24:28-31 = ²⁸ *By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on,* ²⁹ *but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.”* (The more they heard Jesus teach, the more they wanted to hear ... they invited Him to spend the night at their home.) *So he went home with them.* ³⁰ *As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.* ³¹ *Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!* ⁷ It was NOT UNTIL JESUS OPENED the EYES of their HEARTS; they could SEE JESUS as WHO He REALLY IS. It was in their SPENDING TIME with JESUS (resurrected) in the ORDINARY (just having dinner) it BECAME PERSONAL.

Listen ... LUKE 24:32-33a = ³² *They said to each other, “Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”* ³³ *And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem.* ⁸
I Have to TELL SOMEBODY!

Remember those TWO KICKING ROCKS as they LEFT Jerusalem. NOW they are KICKING UP ROCKS as they HUSTLE BACK! They were DOWN and OUT. THEN, they MET JESUS and they could NOT WAIT to TELL SOMEBODY! They had HEART BURN ... ON FIRE ... Couldn't WAIT to TELL ... They'd seen JESUS with the EYES of THEIR HEARTS, and it TRANSFORMED THEM!

WHAT about US? **The best evidence we understand the Bible and have met Jesus The Christ is we have something exciting to share with others!**

IF we've TRULY MET / SURRENDERED TO the LIVING CHRIST, we can NOT CONTAIN OURSELVES! We OVERFLOW with LOVE and JOY that's hard to EXPLAIN.

I'm NOT ASKING you to MANUFACTURE it. Please do NOT just TRY to be LOVING on your OWN! That gets UGLY! I'm asking you to SPEND TIME with the RESURRECTED CHRIST!

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 22:16). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 22:18). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 24:28-31). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 24:32-33). Tyndale House Publishers.

I HOPE and PRAY our TIME in WORSHIP ... spending TIME with JESUS HERE ... makes us ENTHUSIASTIC about GOING and TELLING OTHERS about WHERE THEY can MEET JESUS / HAVE HOPE! It is a COMMAND of OUR LORD ... **ACTS 1:8b = And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**" ⁹ CLEOPAS and His TRAVELING BUDDY could NOT WAIT to TELL!

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *Memorize Acts 1:8b*
Read Luke 24 and Psalms 22
Invite someone to Worship with you

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

- We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is **HIT "SEND"** your COMPLETED Connection Card

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- Reminder ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... **LUKE 24:25 = ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures."** ¹⁰
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- Next Week: ***The DISCIPLES? TOTALLY UNPREPARED for FISH and GHOSTS!***

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."
Special thanks to Andy Stanley, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Pegrum for outlines and ideas for this worship series.

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 1:8). Tyndale House Publishers.
¹⁰ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 24:25). Tyndale House Publishers.