

Questions for Small Groups | April 21, 2019

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Explore the Table — At Table with Jesus —The Road to Emmaus

Focus Passage: Luke 24:13–35

Context: Luke 24:1–49

Other Passages Referenced: Gen 3:67; Luke 4:25–27; 9:16, 21–22, 35; 13:31–35; 18:31–34; 22:19; Acts 3:22–23; 7:22,27

Sermon Recap: Travis Simone: The disciples had been hoping that Jesus was the Messiah who would redeem Israel, but Jesus crucifixion shook their hope and brought confusion. They thought the Messiah would come to save them **from their suffering**, but all along the plan was for Jesus to save the world **through His suffering**. When Jesus encounters two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, somehow the Lord prevents them from recognizing Him. He opens the Scriptures to explain how His death fulfilled God’s plan of salvation. He then breaks bread with them and reveals Himself to them. This first recorded meal after Jesus’ resurrection contrasts with the first recorded meal in Genesis 3:6–7. That first meal opened Adam and Eve’s eyes to evil and death. The meal Jesus shared opened the disciples’ eyes to salvation and new creation. Jesus’ death and resurrection bring a great reversal to the consequences of sin and death. We find Jesus’ table manner of openness which allows eyes that once watched their hopes die see hope alive again.

Hunter Ruch: After his resurrection, Jesus encounters two travelers on the Road to Emmaus. Somehow the Lord prevents them from recognizing Him. Jesus verbally opens the Scriptures from the Old Testament to them to correct their misunderstanding about His role as prophet and Messiah. As He breaks bread with them, Jesus reveals Himself to them. Having had the Scriptures opened to them their eyes were also opened to His salvation. As Joel Green explained, “What has happened with Jesus can be understood only in light of the Scriptures, yet the Scriptures themselves can be understood only in light of what has happened to Jesus.” This first recorded meal after Jesus’ resurrection contrasts with the Bible’s first recorded meal after creation in Genesis 3:6–7. That first meal opened Adam and Eve’s eyes to evil and death. The meal Jesus shared opened the disciples’ eyes to salvation and new creation. Jesus’ death and resurrection brought a great reversal to the consequences of sin and death. Jesus’ table manner of openness allows eyes that once watched their hopes die see hope alive again.

Introductory Comments to Leaders

Hallelujah! Jesus is risen! And, “if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Rom 6:5). Our resurrection Sunday celebration concluded our *Exploring the Table* sermon series with the first recorded table experience of the resurrected Jesus in the new creation. There is much we can draw from the Emmaus Road account, but some critical points are:

- Jesus did not come to save us from all of our suffering but to save us through His suffering.
- Having the word of God in the Scriptures opened to us is crucial to having our eyes opened to recognize Jesus and God’s salvation.
- This first meal shows a reversal of sin’s effects caused by Adam and Eve’s first meal recorded in the Bible in Gen 3:6–7.

In the application section, I hope you can explore question 3 about practicing Jesus table manner of sight by opening the Scriptures to others in hopes that their eyes will be opened to recognize Jesus. Help them see that we’re not necessarily talking about giving a sermon to others. A simple “I read a Bible passage that opened my eyes to see (whatever topic it

may be) in a different way than I ever had before” is usually not to threatening for the conversation partner or for us. At times, “May I share a passage of Scripture that has been meaningful to me that I think might encourage you in what you’re going through?” can be received well if offered in humility and love. Remember, Jesus often admonished professing believers but He generally encouraged others whom religious folk deemed “sinners” and “unclean.”

Background Helps

- Cleopas – Other than being one who had placed His hope in Jesus as Israel’s Messiah, scholars are not in agreement or certainty as to who Cleopas may have been. There is a “Clopas” in John 19:25, who is the husband of one of the Marys—not Mary the mother of Jesus or Mary Magdalene, and probably not Mary the sister of Lazarus, but yet another Mary. Some scholars believe the Cleopas here is the same person as Clopas, with the Luke and John using different spellings of the name. Others argue, “Cleopas is not the Clopas of John 19:25, for Cleopas is a shortened form of the Greek name Cleopatros (masculine form of Cleopatria), whereas Clopas is a Hebrew/Aramaic name.”¹

Hook: *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

What is your favorite Easter tradition?

What evidence for Jesus’ resurrection was most helpful to you believing He rose from the dead?

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ Luke 24:13–35

1. In Luke 24:13–24, what are some reasons the two travelers on the Road to Emmaus are confused and saddened?
2. In Luke 24:25–27, what was the thrust of Jesus’ explanation of Old Testament scriptures?
3. In Luke 24:30–31, what role does Jesus’ breaking and giving thanks for the bread play? (Luke 9:16 and 22:19 may be helpful.)
4. Discuss how this first recorded instance after Jesus’ resurrection of someone eating connects to the first instance of someone eating after the original creation in Genesis 3:6–7.
5. Note the distance of 7 miles (v. 13), the lateness of the hour (v. 29), and the reaction of the Emmaus duo once they knew they had seen the resurrected Jesus (v. 33). They retraced their 7-mile journey back to Jerusalem, likely in the dark.

¹ Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 610.

6. What other information did the Emmaus disciples learn in Luke 24:34?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. What role did Scripture play in your eyes being opened to Jesus as the Savior and your need for Him?
2. Have you ever thought, “My eyes just watched my hopes die”? Were you able to see hope alive again?
3. Besides coming to faith in Christ, can you point to an example of how the Scripture opened your eyes to see life differently?
4. How can you see yourself practicing the table manner of opening the Scriptures in conversations with others that their eyes might be opened to see Jesus?
5. Will you accept the challenge to read two chapters a day of the Gospel of Matthew for the next 14 days, which will take you through the end of the book? You may engage the pastor with questions or insights by calling 757-295-8280.

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.

What we hope members glean from the passage:

1. The two disciples had believed that Jesus was a prophet (v. 19) and the one who would redeem Israel (v. 21), in other words “our Messiah.” Yet, they said, “Our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death and crucified Him (v. 20).” Moreover, women had returned from Jesus’ tomb reporting that His body was no longer there and angels had announced that He was alive.
2. Jesus wants the two to see that “it was necessary that the Christ (Messiah) should suffer these things and enter into His glory” (v. 26). They had mistakenly thought the Messiah would come to save them from suffering when in reality He came to save them through His suffering.
3. When Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks, the eyes of the two were opened and they recognized Jesus. Jesus breaking the bread hearkened back to the feeding of the 5,000 and the institution of the Lord’s Supper.
4. The connection of the word “opened” in terms of opening eyes to the knowledge of good and evil and opening eye to the truth of Jesus, eternal life, and new creation. Make the connection between opening the word to people and their eyes being opened to recognize Jesus.
5. This is just an observation to make. They were willing to travel in the dark to get their urgent news back to the other disciples.
6. They learn that Jesus had also appeared to Simon Peter.