

Luke
See Jesus
How to Be Confused and Disappointed in Life
Luke 24:13-32

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / July 7, 2024

Luke 24:13-32 highlights three mistakes that people make that will keep you confused and disappointed in life.

I. You Might Be Living Life Without A Resurrection

Luke 24:17 "... And they stood still, looking sad."

They stood still looking sad because there was something essential missing from their equation of life! Because when they described the life of Jesus, they stopped short of the grand finale, the climax, and the apex of it all!

You can have Jesus and still not have hope if you don't understand everything that He came to do and has done.

Luke 24:19-20 "And He said to them, 'What things?' And they said to Him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.'"

They're not living with a resurrected Savior! They don't have a resurrection because it didn't fit with their existing paradigm of what they were already expecting and believing should happen.

They were so sad because they believed that death was the end of Jesus and so death would be the end of them.

If you live, think, and discuss life without a resurrection, as if right here, right now is all you've got, you will be downcast!

If you don't want to be a Christian because you think that Christianity is a crutch or just a giant leap of faith that gives you some kind of hope to keep going and you want to live by facts and reality, here are two things to consider:

1) There is credible evidence or facts for the resurrection, for the authenticity of the New Testament documents, and for the historicity of Christianity and **2)** every human being is putting their faith in something. Nobody lives by facts alone. If you think you do, you are fooling yourself.

II. You Might Be Focused On The Wrong Kind Of Rescue

Luke 24:21 "But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel..."

When we hear the word "redeem" today, we think about salvation. We think about His death on the cross that paid the price for us to be forgiven and made right with a holy God once and for all.

Originally the word "redeem" meant "to release someone from slavery." Cleopas was saying he had hoped Jesus would set them free from Roman political and economic oppression. The biggest problem

Cleopas thought he had, and the only slavery he thought he needed to be released from, was political slavery.

He was thinking like we still think – that our biggest problem is our current, earthly circumstances. But Jesus came to solve a much bigger problem! He came to release us from our sin debt by dying for us on the cross and drinking for us God's holy wrath against sin.

When Cleopas talked about Jesus being crucified he saw that as a horrible tragedy that kept Jesus from doing what he needed Him to do! Most human beings still approach life and Jesus with the same attitude.

We want Jesus to fix our biggest problems - our earthly circumstances! We come to Jesus as a sufferer wanting help, but we're slow to see ourselves as a sinner needing salvation.

Jesus didn't come to change our circumstances. He came to change our hearts so that we could live radically different in the midst of those same circumstances.

Our biggest problem is sin and He came to save us from our sin!

III. You Might Be Reading The Bible The Wrong Way

If you're not reading the Bible, that's a problem! But you could be reading it and reading it wrong! If you do that, you still won't get all the good that God has for you.

In our passage, Jesus is teaching us how to read the Bible – all of it!

Luke 24:27 "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

The word "interpreted" is the Greek word "Diermeneuo" which is made up of two words: "Dia" that means through and "Hermeneuo" which is the word hermeneutics.

He is interpreting Scripture through the grid of Jesus. From beginning to end, He is the main character. Don't let anything or anyone else take center stage as you read it.

This matters because there are two ways that you can read your Bible.

There's the "**Moralistic**" way that's kind of like Aesop's fables. It makes the men and women of the Bible the hero – hoping it will inspire you to try harder and live better. That might work initially, but after a while, it'll start to crush you as you realize how often you fall short and fail, but so did they.

The right way, which is what Jesus wants us to get a hold of, is the "**Christ-centered**" way that reads the Bible through the lens of Jesus.

Notice what happened to them as He taught them how to read the Scripture.

Luke 24:32 "They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?'"

Their hearts did not burn because Jesus was their personal teacher in that moment. Their hearts burned because they learned how to read the Scriptures through the lens of Jesus! We can have that today by His Spirit!