

# **Roads of Passion**

## **#2 - The Emmaus Road**

### **Luke 24:13-35**

**Introduction:** Jesus had a passion that caused Him to leave heaven and come to this earth. Jesus' passion caused Him to endure the pain and suffering of the cross. He has a passion for you and for me. And you and I are supposed to live life with passion.

The events of Jesus' last week were confusing, exciting, and discouraging to His followers. Here is a recap of what they witnessed and experienced.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey while crowds welcomed Him with palm branches and shouts of 'Hosanna,' recognizing Him as the Promised Messiah. This marks the beginning of the final week leading up to His crucifixion. [Matt. 21, John 12] encouraging

On Monday, Jesus clears the temple by driving out the money changers and merchants who were exploiting worshippers and curses a barren fig tree as a symbol of spiritual emptiness. His actions challenge corrupt religious practices and demonstrate His authority. [Matt. 21, Mark 11]

On Tuesday, Jesus teaches in the temple, answering challenges from religious leaders and sharing parables about faith, judgment, and God's kingdom. He also speaks to His disciples about future events and the importance of faith and forgiveness. [Mark 11:22-26]

On Wednesday, Jesus rests in Bethany while a woman anoints Him with perfume, preparing Him symbolically for burial. Meanwhile, Judas secretly agrees with religious leaders to betray Jesus. [Matt. 26:14-16]

On Thursday, Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples, washes their feet as a lesson in humility, and establishes Communion. Later that night He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane and is arrested. [Luke 22:7-23]

On Good Friday, Jesus is tried, mocked, and crucified by Roman authorities. He dies on a cross as the sacrifice for our sins and is buried in a tomb. [Luke 23:32-47, John 19]

On Saturday, Jesus body rests in the tomb while His followers go into hiding and mourning and waiting. [Luke 23: 55-56]

On Sunday, Jesus rises from the dead, defeating death, hell, and the grave.

Women and disciples go to the tomb in the early morning and find the body of Jesus gone. He is risen. [Luke 24:1-10, John 20:19-20]

Last week I began a sermon series called, '**Roads of Passion.**' We looked at the Jerusalem Road and talked about the Passion of the Christ.

And now on Resurrection evening, we find two disciples on the **Road to Emmaus.** Let's read their amazing encounter with Jesus in LUKE 24:13-35.

***"Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16but they were kept from recognizing him.***

***17He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. 18One 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. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."***

***25He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.***

**28**As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. **29**But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

**30**When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. **31**Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. **32**They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

**33**They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together **34**and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” **35**Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”

[NIV] **Let's PRAY**

**Illustration:** Passion, in a broad sense, refers to an intense enthusiasm or compelling emotion toward someone or something. The word "passion" holds a profound significance in biblical teachings and spirituality, often embracing deep emotions, desires, and an ardent commitment to God and His purposes. In the Bible, passion is not merely a feeling but a driving force that can lead individuals toward righteous living, devotion, and a fervent faith.

The Bible uses various words (both Hebrew and Greek) that capture ideas of fervor, desire, and those words can be used in both positive and negative senses depending on context.

The Bible exhorts believers to embrace a fervent commitment to God. One example is found in Romans 12:11: **“Do not let your zeal subside; keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”**

Similarly, Colossians 3:23 teaches: **“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for men.”** Here, passion is portrayed as wholehearted effort directed toward God.

While passion can be a powerful motivator for good, Scripture also highlights dangers when strong desire is aimed at sinful or selfish ends. James 1:14-15

warns: ***“But each one is tempted when by his own evil desires, he is lured away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin...”***

The passion of Christ is often understood in terms of His suffering and crucifixion, but Jesus also embodied righteous zeal in His earthly ministry. His compassion, love, and determination to accomplish salvation for humanity exhibited unwavering purpose.

There are times when people lose their passion for living. They begin a job or a career full of excitement and happiness. We want to do our very best, we want to achieve, and be successful, but somewhere along the way, we lose that passion. And we find ourselves barely getting by, just doing the minimum.

Sometimes people lose their passion in marriage. When at first there was that spark and you couldn't wait to see each other at the end of the day, now it's gone. [Story of woman who went for counseling]

When we first became Christians, we had a passion for Christ. We wanted to pray, we wanted to serve, we wanted to be in the word of God, couldn't wait to get to church, but now we just go through the motions of serving Christ.

Here in Luke 24, we find two disciples [*not two of the remaining eleven*] who were followers of Jesus. These disciples had seen the miracles of Christ, they had great faith in Christ, they had committed their lives to Him, they believe He was the Messiah, they believed He was going to deliver Israel from the Roman bondage, they believed He was going to usher in the kingdom of God, they saw Him raise the dead, cast out demons, and open the eyes of the blind, but now Jesus had been crucified and they lost their hope and their passion.

I want you to see the reasons why these Christ-followers lost their passion. Now this is after the resurrection and Jesus joins Himself to their conversation, but they don't know it is Jesus.

## **I. REASONS FOR LOST PASSION**

### **A. First, they lost their passion because of DOUBT.**

In verse 21 notice it says, ***“but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel.*”**

Now notice it says, ***‘we had, [past tense] hoped.’*** But now they are no longer hoping. What was once faith has become doubt. And doubt will always cause you to lose your passion. If you have faith, passion will follow.

Here are these disciples walking toward the little village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. And as they walk along their hearts are filled with doubt. They said we trusted in Jesus but now He is crucified, we saw Him die, He is dead. We put our hope in Him, but now our faith has been shaken, our hopes have been shattered.

This Messiah, this One who was to set up a kingdom is gone. And now, how can He fulfill the promise. They were so filled with doubt that they didn't even recognize Jesus was there with them.

How many times does Jesus join us along the road of life and we don't even recognize that He is with us because of our doubt? Here are disciples who think they have all the facts, but they have no fire because they doubt what Jesus had told them, that He would rise from the dead.

### **TAKE AWAY #1: The Emmaus Road reminds us of Jesus' COMPANIONSHIP.**

Isaiah 43:2-3a (NIV) ***‘When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.’***

Don't ever doubt His promise that ***‘He will never leave or forsake us.’ ‘He is an ever-present help in time of need.’***

### **B. Secondly, they lost their passion because of DISAPPOINTMENT.**

They said, ***‘and what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.’*** Jesus had promised the Son of Man will be crucified, and on the third day He will rise from the dead. But they said this is the third day. The women went to the tomb, and they saw it was empty. They had unrealistic expectations.

His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. As high above the heavens are His thoughts than our thoughts and His ways above our ways. And God does not always act on our timetable and God does not always perform the way we want Him to perform. And so many times, we are disappointed in life because we think God should do it one way and He does it another. Or we think God should do it NOW and He doesn't.

They had no idea they were talking to the One who had been raised. Jesus listens to our hurts and discouragements. He is the one who can turn our sorrow into joy.

**TAKE AWAY #2: The Emmaus Road reminds us that Jesus CARES.**

*1 Peter 5:7 says, 'Cast your cares on Him, because He cares for you.'*

**C. Thirdly, they lost their passion because of DISBELIEF.**

*"Then Jesus said unto them," [verse 25], 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!'*

They did not believe the word of God. You see there was no reason for them not to believe. Did you know the greatest sin that any person can commit is not adultery, it's not lying, it's not theft; it is the sin of unbelief.

John 3:16-18 says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

And here were these disciples who did not believe. The bible devotes one verse to atheism, and it says, *"The fool hath said in his heart there is no God."* Here were men who did not have passion because they had no hope. They had no hope because they were discouraged, they were discouraged because they did not believe what God's word says.

Isaiah prophesied that He would rise again from the dead. The Psalmist said He would rise again from the dead. Jesus Himself said He would rise again from the dead. Jonah was a picture of His resurrection from the dead by being in the belly of a whale for 3 days. And yet these disciples who knew the word of God, did not believe the word of God and because they didn't believe the word of God, they lost their hope and their passion.

I will tell you why a lot of believers lose their passion, I will tell you why a lot of churches have no fire, it's because they do not believe and practice the word.

**TAKE AWAY #3: The Emmaus Road is one of Jesus' Companionship, Caring, and CONVICTION.**

Jesus said this, ***"heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word will never pass away."*** Jesus said not one jot, or one tiddle shall pass away from the law till all be fulfilled. Do you know what a jot is? To compare it to English a jot is like a little dot over an "i" a tiny mark in the Hebrew language.

And so, when you disbelieve the word of God you are going to be discouraged. You are going to be downcast; you are going to lose your passion. If you don't believe the word of God is the inspired, infallible word of God then you have nothing to get excited about.

**STORY:** Dr. Criswell tells the story of a Cannibal tribe who became Christians. These man-eating cannibals became believers. And a British officer saw one of the cannibals reading the bible. And he said to the cannibal, we are sophisticated people and don't believe that anymore. And the cannibal said, well, you are lucky that we cannibals do believe the bible or we would be having you for dinner! Jesus said, ***O fools and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have written concerning Me."***

**D. Lastly, they lost their passion because of DISCOURAGEMENT.**

Verse 16 says, ***'but they were kept from recognizing him.'***

Jesus was alive from the dead, but they did not know it. Their eyes were blind to it. If Jesus is alive from the dead, if Jesus has conquered death and hell and the

grave, if there is live everlasting, if heaven is real, and if the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, what should we ever be discouraged about?

If Jesus has all power and authority, if Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father on high, then what problem will He have meeting our needs? That means He can answer any prayer, He can solve any problem, and He can relieve any burden.

Jesus has risen from the dead. He is alive and He walks with us and He talks with us and He said I will never leave you and I will never forsake you. And here are these disciples; they were discouraged because they are blind to the truth of resurrection of Christ. **Jesus is alive! And that changes everything.**

And when you realize that Jesus is alive and that He is with you and He hears you and He cares about you. And that Jesus has a passion for you, it gives you a passion for life and a passion for others.

***There are reasons for lost passion; but here are the remedies for lost passion.***

## **II. REMEDIES FOR LOST PASSION**

### **A. Remember God's PLAN.**

Verse 26 Jesus said to these disciples, ***'Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?'*** '

They thought the cross was a disaster. They thought the cross was defeat. He died the death of a criminal. But Jesus said to them as He showed them the scripture, "ought not Christ have suffered?" Isn't this what the prophets said He would do? Isn't this what had to happen for sinners to be saved? He pointed out to them that the cross was not defeat, the cross was victory.

The cross was not tragedy the cross was triumph. The cross was not the end, the cross was the beginning. But had there been no Calvary there would be no resurrection. The cross was necessary in the plan of God.

**STORY:** George Bennard was born in 1873 and grew up in Iowa. His father ran a tavern until it burned down. He changed his occupation and became a coal miner. Initially George followed in his footsteps and went to work in the coal mines. In 1895 he attended meetings with The Salvation Army and two years later became a minister/evangelist with them. During this time, he married Willamenta. In 1910, George resigned that position and went out on his own as an evangelist.

While holding a revival meeting in 1912, he was being heckled by several youths. He was very troubled by their disrespect for the Gospel and turned to the Bible for an answer. He reflected on the work of Christ on the cross where He too was heckled by the crowd. He later recalled, "I seemed to have a vision ... I saw the Christ and the cross inseparable." He sat down and composed the melody and penned the words to "***The Old Rugged Cross.***"

On a hill far away, stood an old, rugged Cross  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame  
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary

In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see  
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above  
To pardon and sanctify me

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where his glory forever I'll share

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

Remember God's plan to recapture passion in your life, and...

## **B. Secondly, recall God's PROMISES.**

In verse 27, Jesus says, *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.'*

Can you imagine what it was like for these disciples as Jesus Himself expounded the scriptures to them. One of the ways to regain passion for Christ is to remember all the promises of God for you. Here are just a few.

1. Promises of Salvation
2. Promises of Forgiveness
3. Promises of God's Presence
4. Promises of Peace
5. Promises of Provision
6. Promises of Strength and Help
7. Promises of Healing
8. Promises of Victory
9. Promises of Eternal Life
10. Promise of Guidance – Proverbs 3:5-6
11. Promise of Protection – Psalm 91:4
12. Promise of Deliverance – Psalm 34:17
13. Promise of Wisdom – James 1:5
14. Promise of Comfort – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
15. Promise of Blessing – Malachi 3:10
16. Promise of Rest – Matthew 11:28
17. Promise of Joy – Psalm 30:5
18. Promise of Love – Romans 8:38-39
19. Promise of Hope – Romans 15:13
20. Promise of Grace – 2 Corinthians 9:8
21. Promise of Mercy – Lamentations 3:22-23
22. Promise of Strength in Weakness – Philippians 4:13
23. Promise of Answered Prayer – Matthew 7:7
24. Promise of Power – Acts 1:8
25. Promise of Victory Over Death – 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
26. Promise of Abundant Life – John 10:10
27. The Promise of a New Heaven and Earth – Revelation 21:1

God is for you, not against you. God is with you. Jesus sits at the right hand of God interceding for you right now. So, if you want passion restored, Jesus said, remember God's plan, remember God's promises and then last of all,

### **C. Recognize God's PRESENCE.**

In verses 30-31 it says, ***'When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 'Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.'***

Jesus had been with them all along as they walked down that road and yet their eyes were closed. But when they sat down with Jesus and ate bread, suddenly they knew Him. They are kept from recognizing Him until they are ready to break bread and receive the Word.

**The Holy Spirit is trying to show us how important it is to see Christ in the scripture and in the sacrament (fellowship) than it is to see Him in the flesh.**

Verse 32 says, "they asked each other, ***"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"***

In other words, **their hearts were set on fire and filled with passion once they knew and believed the truth about Jesus.**

**CONCLUSION:** The most fantastic claim Christians make is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. But many people wonder, Is it relevant? Does it really matter? So central was the Resurrection to their message that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, describes Peter and John as "preaching Jesus and the Resurrection." And it was the same with Paul when he was speaking with the philosophers in Athens. And when the time came for Paul to summarize his message, he wrote, ***"I passed on to you as the first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, that on the third day he rose again, and that he was seen."*** So, the resurrection of Jesus is at the very center, at the heart and core of the Good News.

Paul is very clear. He says, ***"If Christ was not raised from the dead, our faith is futile, we are still in our sins, we are unforgiven, and those who have died have perished. But, in fact, Christ was raised from the dead."***

The resurrection of Jesus has up-to-the-minute relevance for you and me. It assures us of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. It assures us of His resurrection power to live for Him today. And it assures us of God's ultimate triumph in the end.

We ought to be able to echo the apostle Peter when he said, ***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has caused us to be born again into a new hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."***

***Here's the Key for You and Me: Verse 28-29, "As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 'But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them.'***

Revelation 3 says, ***"behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, stay with him and he with Me."***

If you invite Him into your life today, He will come in set your heart on fire and He will restore your passion. He will restore a meaning for your life. He waits for you to invite Him in. That is what it says in the scripture, He made as though He would go further down the road, but they said, please, please don't go, and come in. Now if you want Jesus to pass you by, He will, but if you want Him to stop and come into your life, He will. And the choice is yours.