

A Devotional on Easter Sunday for Family or Individuals

Introduction: Today is Easter Sunday. On Easter, we especially remember that Jesus on the third day after his death and burial came back to life (his resurrection). This discussion of Luke 24:13-35 will help us understand better how everything changed that day for people who knew and followed Jesus. It may give us a moment to reflect on our own reactions to a changing world.

Warm-up discussion: What is the longest distance you have walked or run? Share why you did it? Was it a planned hike, or by accident, the sum of lots of steps on a fitness tracker, or an organized run or walk, a virtual marathon, or a hike to earn a scouting badge, or something else? How did you feel after completion? After walking a long way – say 6.7 miles - and then you learned a most incredible thing had happened back where you started, would you have turned around and hurried to return to where you had started? What news would make you stop your trip and turn around and hurry home? Something like that happened to a man named Cleopas and a traveling companion as they walked to a village outside of Jerusalem.

Read Luke 24:13-35

Who was Cleopas? What were the two talking about? Who was the unnamed companion of Cleopas? Could Cleopas's companion have been his wife? Who might "those with them" have included? **Note:** Luke 24: 33 and Acts 1:13-16. The point is, many people, men and women, who had followed Jesus, were trying to figure out what the news about Jesus' empty tomb should mean for them.

Read Mark 16:11 & 13 Honestly, would you have done any better than the Apostles believing the women or Cleopas bringing incredulous news of a once dead man now alive? **Read Luke 24:36** What finally convinced the Apostles that Jesus had risen? Discuss why it's important that more than one witness tells the same thing to establish a truth that you yourself have not witnessed? You might read Matthew 18:16 or Deuteronomy 19:15 to see the importance of corroborating evidence. **Ask:** Which witness to Jesus' resurrection would have first convinced you he was alive. If you had been there - the women, Cleopas and his fellow traveler, Jesus himself appearing, seeing or touching Jesus actual wounds?

Wouldn't you have loved to have heard Jesus' summary of what Moses and all the prophets and all the Scriptures said about him? Luke 24:27 **Share** what you imagine Jesus might he have included from the Old Testament? For you, does the Old Testament testimony about Jesus help your faith, or is it just something interesting? Or, is your faith more informed and developed by the New Testament?

What was the thing that finally clued the disciples in that the stranger walking with them and teaching them was Jesus? **Reread Luke 24:30-31,35** How significant must have been Jesus breaking the bread and giving thanks. Why, do you think? How important is it for us to give thanks to God when we share a meal? Why? Is there a spiritual practice in your home that family or friends would cause them to think of you when they experience it somewhere else?

We may be feeling right now somewhat like Jesus' disciples as they struggled to understand what was going on in their world – wondering how their world be changed after the tumult of Jesus dying on a Friday and then three days later on Sunday finding out he is alive! Talk about a time in your life when everything changed and was different (this could be a good time to share how each one is dealing with changes in each ones' lives from the Covid19 coronavirus)? How do you see life changing temporarily or

permanently? How do you feel about it? Are you finding greater spiritual strength or greater challenge to your faith in the face of the pandemic? Share with each other how you are or will seek God more or better as a result of our current challenge.

That's something like what these disciples experienced and felt. Pray we may find the same peace and strength they found in a risen savior to adjust and move forward with spiritual health even in these unusual and changing times.

If you are sharing this devotional with others, ask for their concerns or thanksgiving, then pray together.