



WHEN WE KEEP STRIKING OUT

A Sermon For Easter

Passage: Luke 24:13-32 (See passage below) - Topic: The Resurrection

This past Sunday, Rick preached from home again, this time bringing us an Easter message. The topic of course was the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We looked at the passage that tells us the well-known story of what happened on the Emmaus Road that day. We heard about two of Jesus' disciples walking to Emmaus after Jesus' crucifixion. They were depressed because Jesus had been killed, and they had had such high hopes that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah who would rule Israel and free it from the grip of the Roman Empire. Upon His death, their hopes were dashed. No wonder they didn't recognize Jesus when he met them on the road to Emmaus. So when they finally realized that the man walking with them and explaining Scripture to them was none other than the risen Lord Jesus, they were thrilled to be visited by the one who caused their hearts to grieve.

We heard how Jesus' resurrection is a shocking reality that separates Christianity from all other religions. Jesus came and defeated sin and death, the greatest accomplishment in human history. His resurrection is what changed His followers. Against all odds, Christianity took root and became a worldwide phenomenon.

The resurrection is what gives us hope: hope that we are loved (we fail consistently and feel undeserving of His love), that our lives have meaning (because Jesus died for each of us), and hope that is present in every situation we can possibly encounter (we *will* have tragedy in this life, but Jesus will show up every time and His comfort will be just like that of the two men on the Emmaus Road. We have the comfort from the hope of eternal life.

Passage: Luke 24:13-32 - And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was [a]about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You [b]the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the [c]Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning [d]with Moses and [e]with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day [f]is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from [g]their sight. ³² They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was [h]explaining the Scriptures to us?"