



A New Direction

1. The Risen Jesus met them in their darkness

2. The Risen Jesus steers them to the light

3. What does it mean for us today?

Resurrection Stories A new direction

Read

- **Luke 24:13-35**

Intro

Second part of series- about how Resurrection created a new direction in the two men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. The Resurrection can change the direction of our life.

What do we know about these two disciples? I believe they were husband and wife John in gospel shares fact who was at the cross. What we do know v13 travelling seven miles from Jerusalem to their own village. They probably witnessed his arrival on a colt, and all events leading up to his death. The one they thought was the Messiah was dead. On this Sunday afternoon they decide to head home- why leave now?

They had witnessed everything Jesus suffered, they had heard the tomb was empty, and angels had declared to them that Jesus was risen. Why leave in the midst of this? Instead of staying with other disciples these two decide to leave- get some insight their faces were down cast – their thoughts gloomy and melancholy. Something is happening deep in their heart as all of their hope is gone. They really thought Jesus would be a military Messiah – over throw the Roman Empire. All of their hopes and dreams shattered

I once had a Meccano set – I loved this construction set – I built all manner of things cranes, buildings, wind mills – in this box was a colorful booklet listing all the other sets – I had set number 5 but I longed for set no 10. One November at 10 years old – my parents and I stopped outside a toy store window where there were stacks and stacks of Meccano- a closing down sale – mum and dad had a hushed chat. My dad took us off for shopping – after which my dad appeared a parcel under his arm. I thought gleefully that he had bought me set number 10. Christmas day arrived I was so excited – you guessed it my hopes were dashed –then I thought maybe they had saved it up for my birthday in march. My birthday came and went no set no 10. This left me devastated my hopes and dreams shattered. I know this is a child's view but it really hurt.

Have you been hurt like this? – a promised pay rise? – let down by people or by God?

Reality is we do feel let down by God – you had expectations of what God would do in your life. The two on the road to Emmaus maybe feel let down – that God did not give them a military Messiah and King. Perhaps they thought Jesus would free the Jews from oppression – but the Romans had killed him.



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1. Risen Jesus met them in their darkness

Jesus was following them

- Have you been in this place of despairing and downcast, feeling life has dealt you a cruel blow? I have, all I wanted to do was walk away and return to a place of safety -to return to those who I could trust
- These two disciples are doing this – they are experiencing spiritual blindness – all the disciples had a blindness of spiritual sight. Jesus had told them he would be killed and on the third day be raised – yet these two just didn't see this. So great was their devastation that they forgot about what Jesus had been saying – they couldn't see beyond their present darkness.
- We may be like this – going on a big diversion – we went to Edinburgh by train, had a lovely car – all was going well in upgraded vehicle – 10 miles to go – we had a fork in road that said road was closed – we had sat nav – tried to navigate in general direction – Sat Nav kept saying turn around where possible but I ignored it – and ended up on an 80-mile diversion, back to where we had started. I had to use a map to plot a route through. But I had a blindness – and ended up doing an 80-mile circle.
- These two were blind and lost and in unknown territory – even though they were walking away from Jerusalem – the risen Jesus was walking after them – pursuing them not allowing them out of his sight
- Jesus asks them a simple question What are you talking about? –I can imagine husband and wife arguing about this perhaps she wanted to stay? Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus immediate. They are taken a back and question back with where have you been hiding – how could you not know what has been going on in Jerusalem?

Jesus opens them up with a simple question

- Jesus opens them up by asking a simple question – he wants to break them free and restore their sight – and asks a simple question and they open up and share the story of Jesus
- V21 – we see the source of their misery – Jesus wasn't who they had hoped he would be– things turned out so differently. They were effectively saying we trusted Jesus we but he has let us down – they recall the women at the tomb – but can that be believed?
- What things can stop you from experiencing the risen Jesus in your life?



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We are never alone – Jesus is always near

- We never walk ALONE in our darkness – He walks with us even though we do not recognize it – when let down, crushed, desolate, alone, when things look so bleak, He is there – give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit that dwells in you – since then you have been raised with Christ – set your minds on things above – your life is now hidden in God. You will appear with him in glory
- We can be the same dwell on things that drag us down – we know how the story ends – we can now set our heart and minds on things above – we can know victory instead of being downcast
- Meets them in their darkness – how does he turn the round?

2. Risen Jesus steers them to the light

Jesus doesn't stress the positives He rebukes their foolishness

- Jesus doesn't say I understand how you feel - but surely you can see something positive – no he doesn't encourage He rebukes them.
- How can you two be so thick? Where is your intelligence? – you are so slow to believe – guys read the signs – didn't the women come back and say Jesus is Risen wasn't this confirmed by Peter later?
- For them the stone is still sealed over their understanding of Jesus – he doesn't pacify or cheer them up – he goes straight to the scripture – beginning Moses and Prophets – he shows them how Jesus' suffering and death was so predicted throughout the scriptures.

Their hearts started to burn within

- Everything they had been taught all their lives suddenly became alive – they were told that their hearts burned with in them – the truth is a road map for encountering Jesus – from beginning to end it is pointing solely to Jesus – we have the Holy Spirit living within us – who opens our eyes, hearts and minds, as we read and study the scripture, small group or on our own, or as we listen to sermons
- Jesus said these things I have spoken while I am still with you but the Holy spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
- Holy Spirit is our sat nav – guides and directs us and asks us to turn around – we can become unbalanced – if I had only used the map and the sat nav I wouldn't have gone on 80 mile diversion – the word and spirit combined to give us clear directions.



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They urge Jesus to stay awhile

- Begins to get dark and the two disciples urge Jesus to stay with them – roads were dangerous. At v30 at the table he took the bread and broke and blessed it and in that split second everything changed for them – the sun rose on their lives – they comprehend exactly what had happened – the spiritual blindness had gone – same thing happened to Mary Magdalene as she spoke to the gardener – but she recognized him – they say Jesus – they had not noticed the nail marks – so intent at looking at their own wounds they had missed his.
- Now as He broke bread, they saw who he was – the light shone into their darkness – their hopes were crushed – they had to be broken – and that sometimes has to happen in our life – we have to be broken before we get a breakthrough – pick up my cross die to self before I can be set free of the power of the resurrection
- They finally saw him and he disappeared – did they rejoice and hang around – going back through bible study – rejoicing in the fact he was alive – they got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem – imagine they sprinted back – in the darkness t where they should be.
- Now in return journey they had light in them – they went out in darkness and chains – because of encounter with risen Lord they go back transformed
- They do not keep this to themselves – Jesus is Risen we have a great story to tell – are our hearts burning inside to share this amazing news?

4. What about us today?

Fire in their hearts through their encounter with Jesus they run back to where they should be fearlessly

- We have the word and the Holy Spirit – we can be filled with that same power and boldness as the two on the road to Emmaus
- We need to hand our disappointments over to Him – we must see he had been with us all along – He walked with us through everything – just because you don't understand what is happening doesn't change the fact that God is still in control
- Whenever we are feeling lost – remember the road to Emmaus – remember the victory over the things the world and the devil throw at us every day
- Do you need to change your direction? they went on a 14-mile circle back exactly to where He wanted them to be
- If you feel you on the road to Emmaus – let God change the direction that you are travelling – for His glory and the blessing of His church.