

# The Death

(Luke 24:13-34)

Yearly Theme: “Joy is...”

Series Title: “Joy’s Good News”

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## Something to think about:

I’m sure today’s message may seem strange to many because the title doesn’t mirror the passage of Scripture very well. The title of today’s message is “The Death,” and it’s in reference to the death of Jesus. However, the passage speaks of an occurrence immediately after the resurrection of Christ. So, why would I choose a resurrection passage to talk about the death of Christ? Because this specific passage deals with the effects that the death of Christ had on His followers, and how most of them remained stuck in the shadow of death rather than remembering Jesus’ prophecies of rising from the grave. In essence, what we will be exploring today is how the disciples of Jesus were shocked by His death, but were inevitably surprised by life.

We pick up the story of Jesus’ death three days later. It’s now Sunday, and a couple of the disciples are heading back home in discouragement, defeat, and utter despair because of Jesus’ death. However, these two would ultimately be surprised by joy. Follow along with me...

## **Luke 24:13-34 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> That same day two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup> But God kept them from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”

<sup>19</sup> “What things?” Jesus asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.

<sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

<sup>22</sup> “Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup> They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, <sup>29</sup> but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. <sup>30</sup> As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their way back to

Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

So, what’s the takeaway from this passage this morning?

**Key Point: “True Joy is surprising.”**

Let’s break this down further:

### **1. Though Jesus had risen from the grave, these two were still living with visions of death.**

*Luke 24:20-21 (NLT), 20 ...Our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago*

### **2. Though they were surprised that Jesus had suffered and died, they should have been prepared for His glory.**

*Luke 24:25-27 (NLT), 25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” 27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

### **3. Their grief over Jesus’ death turned to joy at His revealing.**

*Luke 24: 30-31 (NLT), 30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!*

## Something to take home:

Many of us spend so much time focusing on what is wrong with our lives, our families, our jobs, and just the world in general, that we don’t have time to focus on what is right, and good, and lovely, and worthy of praise. We spend so much time only seeing the glass as half full, or the darkness of the condition of the world, that we can’t see that there is joy, and hope, and truth.

Much like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we walk through life with our heads hung low in defeat and discouragement, not realizing that Jesus is on the road walking with us trying to refocus our attention on who He is and that in Him there is hope everlasting.

What will it take for us to wake up to the reality of Christ and His power over sin and death in this dark world? What will it take for us to realize that Jesus is fully present in the midst of our pain, sorrow, and discouragement? What will it take for us to wake up to the truth that salvation is right next to us waiting for us to realize, release, and surrender to joy in His promises over us?

Not only is joy surprising, but the surprising fact of joy is that it’s right there for the taking, but many of us fail to take it because we’re blind to see it. What are you waiting for?

**Key Point: “True Joy is surprising.”**