

Renewed Hope
All Things New #16 | Luke 24:13-24
April 17, 2022

Pre-Sermon Remarks

PRAYER

Introduction

Spring is the season of hope | Sunshine and warmth, new leaves on trees, frozen rivers flow again.

- Sometimes that hope is grounded in reality, other times it's a delusion
- Hope—dream/vision/desire for a better future—fuels us as human beings.
- When it doesn't happen, Proverbs 13 says *Hope delayed makes the heart sick...*

Interesting that *Passion Week* happen in the springtime | Added to the feeling of hope?

Dashed Hopes

Luke 24 ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

- Side note: Cleopas and *whom*? Possibly Luke, or possibly his wife Mary (John 19)
- Either way, these devout Jews had a lot of hope for their people / nation

How We Got Here (whole backstory, 39 books of the OT)

- God creates all things good | *A beautiful world of relationship and potential and abundance*
- Humanity chooses selfishness | *Taking from the tree of self-direction*
- God's people of blessing | *Abraham's descendants to bless all families*
- God's people become corrupt too | *God's discipline and exile*
 - Eventually return to the land, but frustration (Persia, Greece, Rome)
- God's promised deliverer | *Messiah: king/priest/prophet figure who will make things right*
 - Isaiah: "he'll judge the nations" and "blind will see and lame will leap like deer"
 - Zechariah: "he's going to be a humble king, riding on a donkey"
 - Jesus miracles and acts were not random displays of power | it's **HOPE**

N.T. Wright They had hoped that now Israel would be 'redeemed', that God would purchase her freedom. They hoped that Israel would be liberated once for all from pagan domination, free to serve God in peace and holiness. That's why the crucifixion was so devastating. It wasn't just that Jesus had been the bearer of their hopes and he was now dead and gone. It was sharper than that: if Jesus had been the one to redeem Israel, he should have been defeating the pagans, not dying at their hands!

Hope and Heartbreak

Luke 23 ⁴⁸ All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. ⁴⁹ But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

- Hope set on political freedom | Can we relate?
 - Prophets like Isaiah prophesied two things, but people missed the second

The Victorious Servant

Isaiah 52 ⁹ Be joyful, rejoice together, you ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord has displayed his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God... ¹³ See, my servant will be successful; he will be raised and lifted up and greatly exalted.

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53 ⁵ But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. ⁶ We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all... ⁸ He was taken away because of oppression and judgment, and who considered his fate? For he was cut off from the land of the living; he was struck because of my people's rebellion... ¹⁰ Yet the Lord was pleased to crush him severely.

- It's not just Rome who has acted unjustly and done wrong, it was Israel too
 - It's not just "those people" who deserve to "get it," it's you and me
 - *God, why don't you just show up and destroy all those oppressive, wicked people? Oh, wait...that's me too?*
- The people wanted a political liberator, but what they got was far greater

Big idea: Sometimes the thing you hope for is not the thing you actually need.

The Resurrected Servant

Isaiah 53 When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished. ¹¹ After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.

Resurrection Morning

Luke 24 ¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. ⁵ So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" asked the men. ⁶ "He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, 'It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?'" ⁸ And they remembered his words.

Hopes Realized

Luke 24 ²¹But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel. Besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women from our group astounded us. They arrived early at the tomb, ²³and when they didn't find his body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see him." ²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures. ²⁸They came near the village where they were going, and he gave the impression that he was going farther. ²⁹But they urged him, "Stay with us, because it's almost evening, and now the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together, ³⁴who said, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they began to describe what had happened on the road and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Big idea: The hope that Jesus offers is better than any other hope

- Past, present, and future
- No politician, no financial windfall, no medical advancement, no sporting event
- Repentance, trust, and commit to him
 - Baptism signifies all of these things and more