



Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus
“We had hoped...” — Luke 24:21

**At the table with Jesus, eyes that watched
their hopes die see Hope alive—Luke 24:13-35**

- **Jesus Opens the Scriptures—vv.25-27**

“He [Christ] is Isaac, the beloved Son of the Father who was offered as a sacrifice, but nevertheless did not succumb to the power of death. He is Jacob the watchful shepherd, who has such great care for the sheep which he guards. He is the good and compassionate brother Joseph, who in his glory was not ashamed to acknowledge his brothers, however lowly and abject their condition.

He is the great sacrificer and bishop Melchizedek, who has offered an eternal sacrifice once for all. He is the sovereign lawgiver Moses, writing his law on the tablets of our hearts by his Spirit. He is the faithful captain and guide Joshua, to lead us to the Promised Land. He is the victorious and noble king David, bringing by his hand all rebellious power to subjection.

He is the magnificent and triumphant king Solomon, governing his kingdom in peace and prosperity. He is the strong and powerful Samson, who by his death has overwhelmed all his enemies...If one were to sift thoroughly the Law and the Prophets, he would not find a single word which would not draw and bring us to him.”

— *John Calvin, Preface to Pierre-Robert Olivétan’s 1535 translation of the New Testament*

“Here’s why the line is so important: We all know Jesus died. The line about his descent to hell says yet more still—it shows us just how far he is willing to go. Christ didn’t just dip his toe in the cold waters of death and say, ‘Oh, you’re right, that really is unfortunate; I feel very sorry for all you human types, really I do.’”

No, Jesus went the whole way: he was put to death as a criminal, buried by others in a borrowed tomb, was truly dead—for three days. There's no coming back from that. That isn't just dipping your toe in the cold waters of death to test the temperature. That's full immersion, that's drowning all the way to the bottom of the Mariana trench,

into the deepest recesses of the earth, like Ephesians says, or all the way to hell, as the Creed says. Why? Why would Jesus do that?

Listen to this: So that the work of God might be done! So the word of God might be heard!

Listen to this: There's no place God will not go to find even one lost sheep. There's no place God cannot reach to reclaim God's very own.

That's what 'he descended to the dead' means. That's why it matters. That's why we should say it. Never censor it."

—Brent A. Strawn

Journal for Preachers: Easter 2015

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- **Jesus Opens the Scriptures—vv.25-27**
- **Jesus says, Come to the Table—vv.28-35**

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

Luke 9:16

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:7

“The first eye-opening with its attendant knowledge ushered humanity into a new moral universe of darkness, exile, sin, and death. The second eye-opening with its attendant knowledge pulled back the curtain to allow Jesus’ distraught disciples to perceive that he himself had inaugurated the long-awaited new world of hope, resurrection, restoration, and new creation.”

— *Dane C. Ortlund*

What about us?

- **Have you ever said, “I had hoped?”**
- **Have you ever thought, my eyes just watched my hopes die?**
- **Will you open the Scriptures and come to the Table?**
 - **Read the Gospel of Matthew (28 chapters, 2 a day for 2 weeks)**
 - **757-295-8280**
 - **Come back**

Explore the Table: The Table Manner of Jesus

- **Availability and Approachability**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Provision**
- **Hospitality**
- **Joy!**
- **Seeing, Seeking and Saving**

Some reflections on Maundy Thursday:

The meaning of communion and what the Apostle Paul meant when he called the church, “the household of God,” deepened significantly for me last night. I saw husbands serving wives and wives serving husbands. A Dad knelt to receive from his son.

I had a front row seat to witness a mom and an adult child weeping as they reconnected. A man hobbled up on crutches only to throw them down in exchange for a grip on Jesus' table to keep him standing. When it looked like my hands were full someone even reached in to gently cover the cup of Christ for me after the group had been served.

Several times the person standing next to me looked surprised when they realized they were in position to serve one of their pastors. They asked me if I was going to receive from them. My joyful response was always, “Of course I'm going to receive from you!” We needed the same Savior, and have been made brothers and sisters in Christ.

When it was all over, my Bible was covered with crumbs. A beautiful reminder that before His death Jesus did not give His disciples a theory to explain their faith but a meal to share with all who have placed their faith in Him.

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- **Forgiveness**
- **Provision**
- **Hospitality**
- **Joy!**
- **Seeing, Seeking and Saving**
- **Jesus' Easter table manner—Openness**