

Lk24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

24:14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

24:15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

24:16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

24:17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

24:18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

24:20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

24:21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

24:22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

24:23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

24:24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

24:26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

24:28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

24:29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

24:30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with

us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

24:34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

24:35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

【From Today's Sermon】

Last week was Easter, a day filled with joy as we celebrated the resurrection of the Lord. However, the women went searching for the living among the dead. Though it was understandable that the women, who had come to anoint the body of Jesus with spices, would seek Him among the dead, their attempt to find Jesus among the dead was in vain. The angels clearly showed that this was meaningless and told them to remember the words the Lord had spoken.

The women realized this and returned to the disciples, telling them the facts as they were. However, the disciples dismissed their story as foolish, nonsense, and empty talk, refusing to believe it.

We fail to fix our eyes on what we should see, fail to remember what we should remember, fail to believe what we should believe, dismiss it as nonsense, and yet we are left bewildered, unable to explain, and confused. However, when we come to know that the Lord is with us, drawing near to those engaged in such fruitless debates, walking alongside them, and earnestly explaining the Word to lead them to faith, hope, and victory, will not our hearts truly burn? "Christ must suffer these things and then enter into His glory." We do not want to lose sight of this Lord Jesus. Therefore, we too will not fear difficulties. This is because we believe that when we share in the sufferings of the Lord, we will also share in His resurrection (Romans 6:5).

Good morning, everyone.

Although it feels like summer during the day, I hear that in some places it was below freezing two days ago and there was frost on the ground. Please take care of yourselves during these days of extreme temperature changes.

Last week was Easter, when we celebrated the resurrection of the Lord.

However, when I looked at the behavior and attitudes of the believers at that time, I realized that it was a day far from the joy of the morning, highlighting the stubbornness and narrow-mindedness of human beings.

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee.”

These vivid words echo in my heart. We expected the Lord's body to be in the tomb, and despite His repeated promises of resurrection, we arbitrarily decided in our own minds what should happen and what we should see with our own eyes.

And we easily lose hope, become discouraged, and despair, thinking the worst of things. The Lord clearly foretold the events of hope and victory, saying, “Do not be afraid; I have overcome the world,” yet the disciples did not remember those words in heaven. They, and we, were completely captivated by the visible reality of events, and the flame of faith in our hearts seemed to have been extinguished.

Matthew 16:21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised to life.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was already there.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

There were two men. For some reason, on the day of the Lord's resurrection, when everyone was talking about how Jesus' body was missing from the tomb, they were on their way to the village of Emmaus, 11 kilometers from Jerusalem.

24:13 That day, two disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

24:14 discussing all that had happened.

24:15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself came up and walked with them.

24:16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

They had been talking and arguing about these things for the entire eleven-mile journey. However, they could not come to any conclusion. It was incomprehensible to them, and they were confused. Jesus had clearly foretold his suffering and resurrection. Did the disciples not

understand what he had said even when he told them?

We too have had experiences where we listen to a difficult lecture or hear a foreign language, and the words spoken continue to flow, leaving our understanding behind, as if the words are passing over our heads. Was Jesus' prediction of his suffering something like that? Even if the words themselves were not difficult, the event of Jesus being taken away—a story they did not want to believe or hear—may have caused their ears to close and their hearts to shut out those words.

The words of hope and encouragement were not heard at all. This led to disappointment and despair. Even when an angel was sent to speak the words of God, the women could barely remember them, and the disciples dismissed them as foolish nonsense. How truly compassionate God is.

Their eyes are closed, so they cannot see the truth. Their ears are closed, so the words of salvation and comfort cannot reach them. How can they be helped then?

Jesus is the One who quietly walks alongside His disciples on their journey, never leaving their side. He does not come down from heaven on a cloud with a megaphone to scold them or thunder to warn them. Instead, He quietly walks beside them, sharing their journey through life. Yet their eyes are blinded, and they do not recognize that the Lord is there. But in our lives, we are ignorant, stubborn, and hard-hearted. We do not think about the Lord's words, nor do we see His visible victories. We try to interpret things based on our own perspective and value judgments, engaging in endless debates, yet we understand nothing. And we ask, "Where is the Lord? Why has He forsaken us and left us alone?" But the Lord is walking with us.

24:17 Jesus asked them, "What are you discussing with one another as you walk along?" They stood there, looking sad.

"What are you talking about?" You do not truly accept the Lord's victory, resurrection, or salvation, but instead dismiss them as foolish nonsense and engage in fruitless, circular arguments. You do not believe in or accept the Lord's resurrection or victory, and you ask, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' What do these words mean? Is this not what Jesus is lamenting?

They, unaware of such things, only saw Jesus as someone to be pitied, and instead criticized Him for not knowing the facts. With gloomy, pessimistic, and hopeless hearts, entangled in

tedious matters, they spoke to Jesus with an attitude that seemed to say, “How can you say such disgusting things on a day like this?”

24:18 One of them, named Cleopas, replied, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened there in the last few days?”

24:19 ‘What things?’ they asked. ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. He was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

24:20 but the chief priests and the rulers handed him over to be put to death, and they crucified him.

24:21 We had hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel. Moreover, it is the third day since these things happened.

Jesus of Nazareth was “a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.” “The chief priests and the rulers handed him over to be put to death, and they crucified him.” “We had hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel.” But unfortunately, it did not come to that. The disciples' thoughts were cut short there. God's work had a magnificent and beautiful ending, but those who should have believed were trying to end the story prematurely on their own.

From this point on, the story becomes incomprehensible to them.

24:22 But some of our women surprised us. They said that they had gone to the tomb early in the morning,

24:23 but when they found Jesus' body missing, they returned and reported that an angel had appeared and said, 'Jesus is alive.'

24:24 So some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Jesus was not there.”

We are completely baffled. We are confused. We are disappointed. We cannot believe that such a thing could happen... Such selfish thoughts, one after another, have been piled up before God to this day.

24:25 Then Jesus said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.

24:26 Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?”

24:27 Then He began to explain to them the things concerning Himself, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, and explaining to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The solution is indeed found in the Scriptures. Jesus walks with us on our journey through life, where we easily forget the words of Scripture, proceed in our own way, and sink into our own interpretations. He walks with us and explains His words to us.

24:28 As they were going to the village, Jesus went ahead of them.

24:29 So they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." And He went in to stay with them.

24:30 When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them.

24:31 their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then the Lord vanished from their sight.

24:32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?"

24:33 They rushed back to Jerusalem and found the eleven disciples gathered together,

24:34 who were saying, "The Lord has truly risen and has appeared to Simon!"

The familiar prayer of blessing over the bread... By the time they realized it, Jesus was no longer there. Though they never saw him again, they returned to Jerusalem with the burning words of his teaching, overcoming their fatigue and darkness, saying, "Stay with us tonight. It was already evening, and the sun was setting." Despite their words, they hurried back to Jerusalem, leaping with joy, eager to share the truth about Jesus.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

40:29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

40:30 Even the young grow weary and tired, and the young men stumble and fall.

40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

We pray that we may be set on fire in our hearts by the words of the Lord, be pushed forward

by the power of His victory, and be guided along the path of life.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship.

We are foolish, for we do not see what we should see, we forget what we should remember, we harden our hearts and make wrong judgments, and we dismiss God's glorious and mighty works as nonsense and rubbish. Yet you do not abandon us, you do not judge us, you do not forsake us. You draw near to those who are consumed by fruitless arguments, you walk with them, you explain your word, and you make clear what we should believe. You opened the eyes of our hearts, which were closed in a hard shell, set our hearts on fire, and gave us hope and salvation. Thank you. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.