

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
April 24, 2011
Easter Sunday: A Special Day

Prelude & Prayer Time

Call to Worship: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Soon & Very Soon* (Choir)

Welcome: (Pat) Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church on this Easter Sunday! It is good to see you. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate at the end of the service. Let's take a moment and greet one another.

Baptism: He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed

Of all the days in the year to be baptized; Easter Sunday is at the top of the list. On this day the symbolism of this ordinance comes alive in the imagery of identifying with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection.

Baptize: Owen (August 23, 2009) & Duncan (August 30, 2009) Likely,
Chibuzo (spring 2010), Kelechi & Chidinma (Thursday night) Agu

Sing: *Because He Lives, Low in the Grave He Lay, He Reigns, How Great is Our God*

Children's Corner: (Alyssa)

Video: *A Special Day*

Sermon: **Easter Sunday – A Special Day**

Why is Easter special to you? Get some responses from the congregation.

Like you – it's the resurrection of Jesus Christ that makes Easter so special to me!

This morning let's consider this amazing day from one of the lesser known resurrection day events that took place on the road to Emmaus. Some of you know the story it is found in Luke 24.

The women, Peter, and John find the empty tomb and they share their discovery with the disciples and those gathered with them. Two of those who heard the report began to make the 7 mile journey back home to their village called Emmaus.

We are not certain, but both of these travelers appear to be men. We base this mostly on the language in the story. One of travelers is a man named Cleopas. The other person is unnamed.

As these two are walking along, and discussing all that has gone on in Jerusalem, Jesus joins in on their walk and their talk but they are kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-36 synopsis:

- Jesus: What are you talking about?
- Cleopas: Are visitor unaware of all the things that have happened here?
- Jesus: What things?
 - They replied: Things about Jesus of Nazareth.
 - He was a prophet powerful in word and deed.
 - The chief priests and the people handed him over to be crucified.
 - We hoped that he would redeem Israel.
 - It is the 3rd Day.
 - Women amazed us: morning, empty tomb, visions of angels.
 - Disciples went and found it just like the women said but they did not see HIM!
- Jesus: How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe what prophets spoke.
 - Did not Christ have to suffer and then enter His Glory.
 - Beginning with Moses and all the prophets he explained what the Scriptures said concerning himself.
- Emmaus – Jesus appeared to keep walking
- They urged him to come stay with them since it was almost dark
- Table: took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it and gave it to them.
- Eyes were opened and they recognized him and he disappeared from them.
- Hearts were burning
- Returned to Jerusalem at once to tell the disciples and all those gathered:
The Lord is Risen!
- They were talking Jesus stood among them and said: **Peace be with you!**

Let share with you a few of my thoughts from the road to Emmaus.

My Thoughts from the Road to Emmaus

1. I appreciate the honesty of this day. (vs. 13-17)

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.

Early on the 3rd day the disciples were downcast, distraught, discouraged, distressed, disillusioned, dejected, & depressed. They were down.

Peter was perplexed wondering what had happened.

The Gospel writers like Luke are telling us how it was. I appreciate the honesty of this day.

2. I appreciate the humour of this day. (vs. 18-24)

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

Jesus joins in on their walk and talk.

Jesus: What are you talking about?

Cleopas: The things that have happened in Jerusalem?

Jesus: What things?

Cleopas: Retells the Passion Week events to the one who experienced all of it.

God has a great sense of humour.

3. I appreciate the historical backdrop of this day. (vs. 25-27)

Verse 27: And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Hundreds of O.T. prophecies are fulfilled in the birth, life, death, & resurrection of Jesus.

I would have loved to have been in on this explanation. I have read & heard lots of sermons, bible studies, and commentaries, on Christ's fulfillment of the OT prophecy – but I would have loved to been on the Road to Emmaus.

The Gospel of Luke is written by Dr. Luke.

Luke 1:1-4: Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are historical events.

These things either happened or they did not.

These things are either true or they are false.

These things are either right or they are wrong.

The good news is that God lets you come to you own conclusions about this day.

For myself – I appreciate the historical backdrop of this day.

4. I appreciate the exhilaration of this day. (vs. 28-36)

Emmaus Travellers: Hearts were burning!

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. *There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together³⁴ and saying, "It is true! **The Lord has risen** and has appeared to Simon."³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

The first thing they did when they recognized Christ was to immediately make the 7 mile journey back to Jerusalem to tell them what had happened.

Warren Wiersbe: *The best evidence that we have understood the Bible and met the living Christ is that we have something exciting to share with others.*

As the two are talking: Jesus shows up! Can you imagine what it would have been like?

There are a several things I appreciate about this day but do you know what I love about this day!

I love this day because:

1. God kept his promise.
2. Jesus did what he predicted: destroy the temple and he would raise it in 3 days.
3. Jesus said that he would suffer and 3 days later he would rise again.
4. Jesus fulfilled his own description of himself: Resurrection and the Life.
5. Jesus was victorious.
6. Jesus defeated Death, Satan, and Sin.
7. Eternal Life is achievable because of the resurrection.
8. We no longer fear death.
9. We have the hope of Glory!
10. We celebrate a great God who is faithful and true.

I love this day because we who are dead in our sins can be made alive. (Eph 2:5)

Romans 10:9-10, 13: *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

If you have never called on the Lord for salvation this day has the potential of being the greatest day of your life.

Response & Offertory: *One Day*

Connect Cards: Guest, Prayer Request, Information Salvation, Baptism, or Church Membership

During this season we collect a special offering called the Annie Armstrong Easter in support of our North American Mission Board. Through it we support over 5,000 missionaries. Please use the daily prayer guide and prayer for our missionaries here in Canada.

Pray: The thank you for this very special day. We love you and we thank you for the hope that we have in Christ. We thank you for the gift of life and we offer our lives and gifts to you on this Easter Sunday as a special thank you to you. Amen

Luke 24:13-36

¹³ *Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.* ¹⁴ *They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.* ¹⁵ *As they talked and discussed these things with each other,*

Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downturned. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” ³³ **They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.** There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! **The Lord has risen** and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. ³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”