

## Luke 24:13–32

### “A Big Problem and the Big Picture”

After the resurrection, Jesus appears not to rulers or elites, but to ordinary, discouraged followers. The moment is filled with tension between hope and fear: Hope: “Maybe He is the Messiah.” Fear: “But everything fell apart.” This is a familiar place for us—when reality doesn’t match expectation.

#### A Big Problem (13–24)

**Shattered expectations** — verse 21 — “We had hoped...” Their faith was rooted in what they thought Jesus would do. When events didn’t align, their hope collapsed.

**Partial understanding** — Verse 16 — their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. We only know the Lord as He reveals Himself to us. We often walk with limited spiritual sight.

**Confusion about events** — “All these things that have happened...” They had the facts but no framework to interpret them. Luke 4:16–21 — Jesus declared His mission, but they misunderstood its nature. It didn’t go as they thought it would. This is a familiar place for us to be.

#### The Big Picture (25–32)

**Not ignorance, but unbelief** — “Slow of heart to believe...” They had the Scriptures but hadn’t seen the big picture. Verse 25 — all the prophets had spoken — it all points to Christ: The fall, the ark, the Passover, the sacrificial system, manna, the rock, Isaiah, the prophets. All of Scripture points to Him.

Luke 18:31–34; John 1:29 — “Behold, the Lamb of God.” “He interpreted to them...” — “Their eyes were opened.” The issue was not the events, but their understanding of them. Their hearts burned within them when the Word was rightly understood. It ignites the heart, brings clarity, and produces joy—to see that the plan was going according to God’s purpose. The cross was not a failure, but a fulfillment.

#### Application: Living Between the Problem and the Picture

Always lay “what has happened” against the backdrop of “what has been spoken.” Scripture gives us the big picture. Our experiences don’t define truth—the Word does. What He is doing now is working toward its intended purpose. Trust the unseen work of God and trace His hand in the Scriptures. Expect burning hearts, not instant answers. God doesn’t always explain things immediately, but He gives understanding through His Word and assurance of His presence. The disciples’ problem wasn’t their circumstances, but their perspective. He didn’t change the events—He revealed their meaning.

#### Small Group Discussion

- 1 How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scriptures and sermon on Sunday?
- 2 When have you experienced disappointment because God didn’t work the way you expected? How did it affect your faith?
- 3 Why do you think the disciples struggled to understand what happened, even though they knew the Scriptures? What does it look like in your life to interpret your circumstances through God’s Word?
- 4 Can you recall a time when Scripture brought clarity, conviction, or renewed passion in your life? What practices help you stay open to God revealing truth and shaping your perspective?