

The Road to Emmaus Experience



Bethlehem Baptist Church

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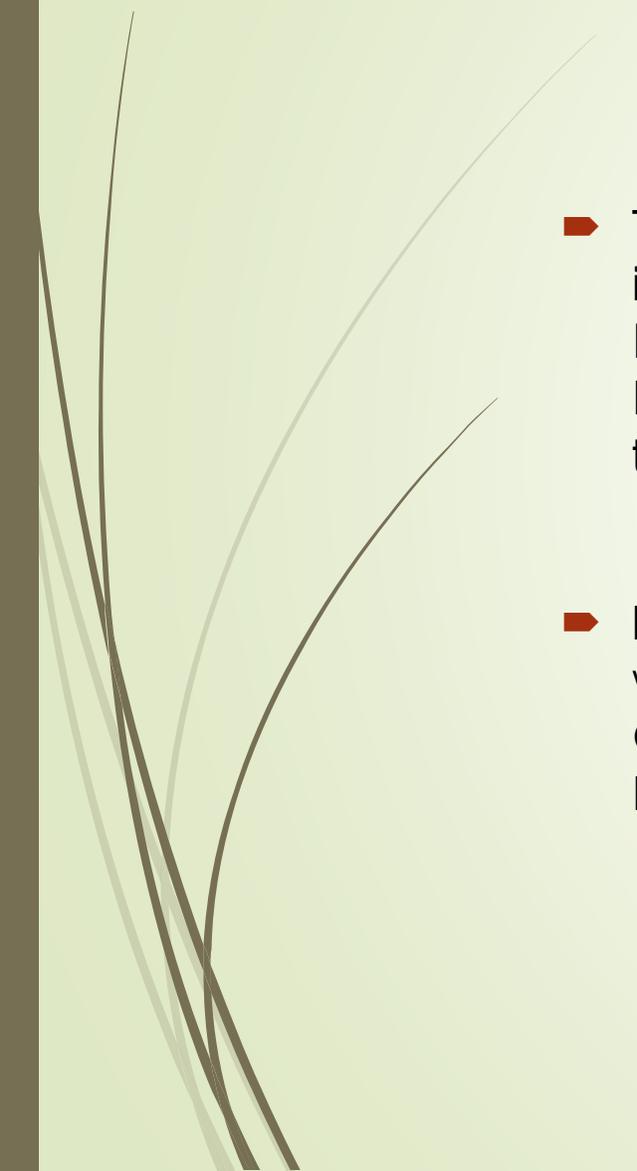


Agenda

- Understanding Eastertide
 - The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus
 - The Road to Emmaus Experience (Luke 24:13-35)
 - Loss of Perspective (vss. 13-18)
 - Lack of Faith (vss. 19-24)
 - Legitimacy of the Word (vss. 25-31)
 - Liberated through Testimony (vss. 32-35)
 - Conclusion
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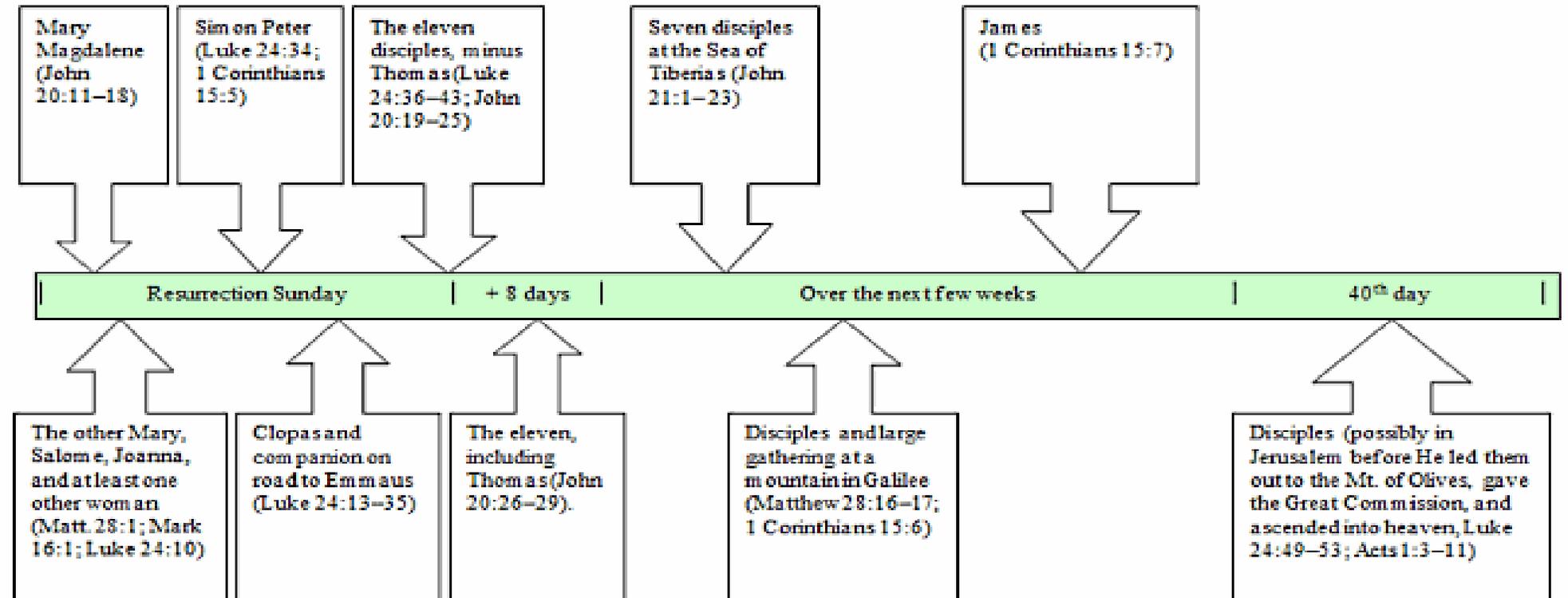


Understanding Eastertide

- ▶ **The season of Eastertide** is the fifth season of the Christian Calendar. **Easter**, is the most important religious feast of the Christian liturgical year, observed between late March and late April. It celebrates Christ's victory over death, His resurrection from the dead, which His followers believe occurred on the **third day** after His death by crucifixion sometime in the period A.D. 27 to 33.
 - ▶ **Eastertide** begins on Easter Sunday and extends itself over fifty days (seven weeks) including Sundays. This is the highest Holy time in the Christian Calendar. The 50th day ends **Eastertide** and begins the season of Pentecost.
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*The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

Timeline of the Post-Resurrection Appearances



*Proposed by Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell

The Road to Emmaus Experience

- ▶ ¹³ That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him.
- ▶ ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"
- ▶ They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."
- ▶ ¹⁹ "What things?" Jesus asked.
- ▶ "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰ But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.
- ▶ ²² "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³ They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴ Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."
- ▶ ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- ▶ ²⁸ By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹ but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰ As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!
- ▶ ³² They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" ³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."
- ▶ (New Living Translation)



The Road to Emmaus Experience

- Road to Emmaus and Road to Damascus encounters:

EMMAUS

Jesus

Two Disciples

Shallow Believers

Did not recognize Jesus

Case of Revelation

Obscure Roadway

DAMASCUS

Jesus

Paul

Non-Believer

Immediately recognized Jesus

Case of Transformation

Important Roadway

- Whether Jesus has to meet you on your Road to Emmaus or your Road to Damascus...He will get your attention!



The Road to Emmaus Experience

- Loss of Perspective (vss. 13-18):
 - The two disciples (Cleopas, the other unknown) are headed to Emmaus
 - They left Jerusalem after the crucifixion believing that Jesus was dead
 - The two talked about all they saw and heard over the past few days
 - They are saddened by the report that Jesus' tomb was empty
 - This was on the third day...the day of his resurrection
 - The two disciples lost perspective because they thought death was final
 - Jesus asked, "What are you taking about?" ... (he had an ulterior motive)
 - However, the notion of the "finality of death" led to a lack of faith
- The Rhoda Dilemma Acts 2:12-15:
 - Going through the motions yet not believing for the expected outcome



The Road to Emmaus Experience

- Lack of Faith (vss. 19-24):
 - Jesus asked the two disciples, "What things?"
 - a chance for them to testify of his wonderful works and Messiahship
 - they addressed his works...but not his resurrection
 - They told the story up to the point where he was crucified
 - they were more focused on the natural than the spiritual
 - They were looking for a liberator of Israel from Roman oppression...not a liberator of humanity from sin
 - All of the pieces were in place for them to believe...the women's testimony; the Angels declaration; the right day; but...the tomb was empty!
 - the empty became a game changer for them...in the wrong way
- Has God ever placed you in a situation that stretched your faith?



The Road to Emmaus Experience

- Legitimacy of the Word (vss. 25-31):
 - Jesus said to the disciples, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?"
 - Jesus admonished the disciples because of their inability to accept the legitimacy of the Word...the legitimacy of the prophets and prophesy
 - Jesus took them to school as to the lineage of he who is, and was, and is to come!
 - Legitimizes himself through the power of the Word!
 - The Word caused the disciples to hunger and thirst for more!
 - He ate with them...and in a moment of "koinonia" ...He revealed himself
- As believers, it is the Word, God's Word, that legitimizes us...not material things
 - in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God
 - thy Word is a light unto my path, and a lamp unto my feet
 - thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee



The Road to Emmaus Experience

- Liberated through Testimony (vss. 32-35):
 - The koinonia experience...the intimate fellowship with the Word and the revelation that came as a result caused the two disciples to go testify
 - Their testimony not only liberated them but also those they shared the Good News with...He Has Risen!
 - Their experience with Jesus caused a transformation to occur on the inside that manifested itself on the outside
 - you can not have a personal encounter with Jesus...with the Word and remain the same. It makes you want to testify!
 - it's like fire shut up in your bones...it makes you want to run and tell that
 - tell what?

THAT HE IS RISEN!