

Easter 2017 Sermon Qs

Introduction

1. Have you ever really surprised someone?
2. Conversely, have you ever been genuinely surprised by someone else?

Looking at the Text

We have been looking in the gospels and highlighting the times when Jesus was interrupted. But today, as we look at one of the resurrection passages, and this time it is Jesus who does the interrupting.

1. Can you remember some of the interruptions that we have studied so far in this series?
2. Which gospel accounts have made the biggest impacts on you and why?

Read Luke 24:13-35

1. Note the direction and the posture of these disciples as they walk along the road. Where are they going and what are they walking away from? How do you think they are feeling? Have you ever had a time of emotional exhaustion like this?
2. When Jesus comes alongside them they stop and Cleopas summarizes what has happened. There are three aspects to what he shares. How does he describe Jesus? How does he describe what has happened? What further complicates their understanding of Jesus' death?
3. These two have heard what the women said and even what the disciples saw. Yet they obviously don't believe because they are walking away from Jerusalem. What do you think is their hesitation?
4. Jesus now helps them understand what has happened. It is true that the one they hoped would be the messiah has died on a cross. But they are wrong to assume that this was a defeat for God. Jesus explains what has happened in a new light. What do you think he tells them?
5. Have someone read these verses. How do you think they might have fit into what Jesus shared? Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 12:5-13, Leviticus 16:20-22, Deuteronomy 18:15, 1 Chronicles 17:3, 11-14, Isaiah 53:4-7. Can you think of any others?
6. What affect did this conversation have on the disciples?
7. When did they recognize Jesus? What do you think it was about this moment that connected with them?

Applications

1. Notice the change in the disciples. When Jesus encounters them they are walking away from Jerusalem. They are sad, but also curious about what they have heard. Still, they are wandering away. What kinds of things cause you to wander away from Jesus at this point in your life?

2. They stop and listen when they hear Jesus making sense of their experiences in light of scripture. Have you even had a time where your lack of understanding of something was a barrier between you and God?
3. When they realize who Jesus is and understand that he is alive, it changes everything. Where do they run when they realize Jesus is alive? How would you describe your own journey? Are you wandering away from Jesus, running back to him, walking with him or somewhere in between?
4. How does the truth of the resurrection change what you are going through in your own life now?