A photograph of a paved road with a double yellow line leading through a dark stone archway. The road disappears into a misty, foggy forest with tall trees. The scene is dimly lit, with light breaking through the fog in the distance.

WALKING AWAY FROM JESUS
LUKE 24:13-35

Walking Away From Jesus

- Erika Schimp
 - This could very easily be the story of many of us here this morning or of someone who came to your mind
 - They concluded that God or the Church or a trusted Christian has disappointed them so deeply walking away was not really a question
 - Or maybe your story would include just wandering away like the lost sheep in Jesus' parable
 - You never were very serious about God so what's the big deal
 - You found yourself living you own life by your own rules
 - Through a series of small decisions, you find you have walked away from God

Walking Away From Jesus

- Erika Schimp
 - Erika Schimp, “I was satisfied with my decision for a while. In fact, there were many times I was thankful I didn’t have to worry about religion. It relieved me. Not long after, though, I realized I couldn’t do that. I couldn’t just leave Christianity because I didn’t want to believe it. I couldn’t simply leave without a real reason.”
- Just because Erika walked away from God does not mean God walked away from her
- We see this illustrated for us this morning with two men, a dusty road, and a risen Savior

Scripture

- **Luke 24:13-35 NIV**, 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 downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 “What things?” he asked.

Scripture

- **Luke 24:13-35 NIV**, “19 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 they did not see Jesus.”

Scripture

- **Luke 24:13-35 NIV**, 26 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah 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.

Scripture

- **Luke 24:13-35 NIV**, 28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on 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?”

Scripture

- **Luke 24:13-35 NIV**, 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.

Walking Away From Jesus

- What do these verses tell us about these two men when starting out from Jerusalem that morning
 - They had deep expectations of Jesus that were left crushed
 - **Vs. 21a**, “but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.”
 - They were trying to figure out if they could believe anything Jesus said
 - **Vs 21b, 24**, “21b And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

Walking Away From Jesus

- What do these verses tell us about these two men when starting out that morning
 - They were trying to figure out how they got it so wrong
 - **Vs. 15,** As they talked and discussed these things with each other
 - The Greek reads like they were tossing things between them like two people juggling something
 - They were arguing

Walking Away From Jesus

- What do these verses tell us about these two men when starting out that morning
 - They stopped believing Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Son of the living God
 - **Vs. 19**, “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.”
 - How can a dead prophet help us now?
 - What word can he give us from the grave?
 - Jesus has no answer for us today

Walking Away From Jesus

- What do these verses tell us about these two men when starting out that morning
 - They were walking away from truth and didn't realize it
 - **Genesis 4:7 NIV**, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."
- This could be you this morning walking your own Emmaus Road
 - I've been told Jesus loves me, but I've not seen it
 - I've been told as a believer I am more than a conqueror, no evidence
 - I've been told Jesus will never leave nor forsake me but it sure doesn't feel like it

Jesus went to them, right where they were at, to lead them home

- Jesus didn't say, "Come back to Jerusalem and find me", "I'm so disappointed in you.", "Get your life right then you will find me."
 - Jesus went to them on the road they had chosen to walk
- Think of all the things Jesus needed to do on Resurrection Day
 - How long would Jesus' to-do list have been on this day?
 - These two struggling believers were important to Jesus
 - They are not known to be big names in Jesus' next movement
 - One of their names is not even known
 - Jesus took precious hours of this special day to walk these two discouraged disciples home
 - This is the parable of the Lost Sheep in action

Jesus went to them, right where they were at, to lead them home

- That could have been the story of each person that thought they knew what God was doing and became deeply disappointed and hurt that morning
- This might be you this morning
 - Do you find yourself on your Emmaus Road walking away from Jesus this morning?
 - Has God disappointed you?
 - Have you disappointed God?
 - Do you even care?
 - Have you disappointed yourself?
- Remember, Jesus is the good Shepherd

Jesus challenged their understanding of the word and work of the Messiah

- **Vs. 25-27**, 25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah 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.
 - Foolish - This root refers to physical nerves causing one to become dull, sluggish
 - Jesus is not saying they were stupid or even ignorant
 - They could quote all sorts of Bible verses about the Messiah

Jesus challenged their understanding of the word and work of the Messiah

- **Vs. 25-27**, 25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah 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.
 - He was saying they were slow to accept as truth all the Prophets spoke and wrote about the Messiah
 - They had trusted more in the interpretations and teachings of Rabbis rather than the Prophet’s words
 - Interpretations, commentaries can be good to help lead us in understanding Biblical text, but they are never to replace the Biblical text
 - They are never to replace the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart

Jesus challenged their understanding of the word and work of the Messiah

- **John 16:12-14 NIV**, 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”
 - Jesus, acting like the Holy Spirit in our lives today, takes them back to Scripture and leads them to the truth
 - **Vs. 26**, “Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”
 - **Vs. 27**, And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Jesus challenged their understanding of the word and work of the Messiah

- Did it have an effect on them, did it accomplish Jesus' intended purpose?
 - **Vs. 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?"
 - All of their doubts, fears, questions, hurts were flash burned away by the glory of God shining in their hearts through Scripture
 - Folks never ignore the burn!!!!
- What about you this morning?
 - Have you been ignoring the burn on your Emmaus Road?

Jesus revealed Himself to them through fellowship

- **Vs. 28-29**, 28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on 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.
- Why didn't Jesus just tell them who He was and go on?
 - Miracles alone will never keep us off our Emmaus Roads
 - Miracles alone will never save you
 - They can be challenged as time goes by, They have to be refreshed, They grow stale, They will not sustain us

Jesus revealed Himself to them through fellowship

- But God's Word never fails
 - **Luke 1:37 NIV**, "For no word from God will ever fail."
 - This is our anchor, or this is what our life anchor must be holding into
- It's not enough to just have the Word of God resting in our minds
 - We must let them loose in our hearts and the events of our lives
 - We must choose to live by them

Jesus revealed Himself to them through fellowship

- Jesus has filled their minds with God's truth, the question now is, "What will they do with it?"
 - So He started to continue with His journey on
 - He needed invited into their home and allowed to fellowship with them
 - It was during the fellowshipping where Jesus was able to reveal Himself to them more fully
 - Have you invited Jesus into your life to fellowship with you?
- Did it make a difference in their lives?
 - Their walk back to Jerusalem was so very sweet
 - They just couldn't wait to tell the rest

Walking Away From Jesus


- What did I find in my study this week of the text for today?
 - You could appear to be walking in fellowship with Christ and still be on an Emmaus Road
 - **Matthew 15:8 NIV**, “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”
 - It’s a question of your heart more than your doing
 - We must let God be God

Walking Away From Jesus

- What did I find in my study this week of the text for today?
 - We must challenge our own interpretations of His Word and what we have come to believe
 - I mostly stay away from the phrases like, “God always or God never....”, unless Scripture clearly states it that way
 - We must look at His nailed scarred hands, accept them as truth, invite Him into our lives, and simply turn around and come home

Walking Away From Jesus

- Erika Schimp, “After months of this rigorous routine, the evidence toward Christianity had mounted to enough to be called proof. I realized I could no longer be agnostic. The evidence had demanded a verdict, and it called for me to become a Christian. So, I did.”

A photograph of a paved road with a double yellow line leading through a dark stone archway. The road disappears into a misty, forested landscape. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source creating a glow in the distance.

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