**Jesus and the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 24:13-35

**The Big Idea**

The Risen Jesus was very intentional in how he revealed himself to his disciples, and he wanted to be recognize especially in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. For centuries the church has experienced the Risen Lord in Word and Sacrament: through the Scriptures and Communion.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. On Sunday we talked about how the Hebrew Scriptures point us to Christ. Take some time to explore the implications of that for how we go about reading the Old Testament. For example, is it possible to look for Jesus too much in Old Testament stories? Does it change the applications we make to Old Testament stories? Etc.?

2. On Sunday we talked about the danger of pulling Jesus out of the Bible in order to free him from some of the embarrassing, offensive, or archaic elements of the Bible. How do you react to that idea, and do you think there are times when a bit of that might be appropriate?

3. Talk about your experience of communion over the years. For example, has it been especially meaningful, or have you struggled to experience it in meaningful ways? Are there any specific moments or memories of celebrating community that stand out to you? How might communion become a more meaningful experience for you?

**Digging Deeper**

Read Psalm 22 which is another passage that has remarkable fulfillment in the ministry of Jesus. Read through the passage and note every connection you can make with Jesus.

**Sermon Outline**

I. The Context

A. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus full of questions and confusion

B. The Risen Jesus full of joy with the cross behind him ready to reveal himself to his disciples

C. Jesus is very intentional on how he chooses to reveal himself

1. They are “kept from recognizing him” (v. 16)

2. Jesus takes them on a journey of being progressively “opened” to the reality of his presence (see “open” in v. 31, 32, 45)

II. The Risen Jesus revealed through the Hebrew Scriptures (v. 25-27)

A. This must have been an amazing experience for these disciples!

B. The Scriptures need to be “opened” to them (v. 32) and their minds need to be opened (v. 45) to the Scriptures

C. Consider some of the passages Jesus may have alluded to as pointing to his sacrifice and subsequent glory

1. Our Champion: The offspring of the woman who would conquer the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15)

2. Our Substitute: The ram who was sacrificed in the place of Isaac (Genesis 22:12-14)

3. Our Sacrifice: The Passover lamb whose blood enables God’s wrath to pass over us (Exodus 12:12-13)

4. Our Healer: The snake that was raised up on the pole to cure our deadly disease (Numbers 21:8-9)

5. Our Suffering Servant: The servant of the Lord who bore our iniquities and by whose stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:3-6)

D. We must hold to the absolute continuity between the Scriptures and Jesus. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh just as the Scriptures are the Word of God written.

E. Some people want to hold onto Jesus but let go of the rest of Scripture

1. They are embarrassed or offended by the OT or by Paul and want to remove Jesus from his biblical entrapment

2. But Jesus would never want to be received on those terms. He understood himself only within the story of the Bible, and he had an utter respect for and devotion to the Hebrew Scriptures.

3. When we pull him out of his Biblical context, we begin to recreate him in our own image, and his views start looking suspiciously similar to our own.

F. Other people want to be devoted to the Scriptures, but they lose sight of the Christ of the Scriptures

1. In John 5:39-40, Jesus accuses the Pharisees of this very thing

2. We can forget that a living person stands at the center of these Scriptures who desires our devotion and obedience.

III. The Risen Jesus revealed through the breaking of bread (v. 30-32)

A. Luke’s language in v. 30 is an intentional echo of his langue in Luke 22:19 when Jesus is instituting communion.

B. So Jesus really wants to be revealed in this act of breaking bread which points to his sacrifice on the cross.

C. This act pictured in the breaking of bread absolutely defines his kingdom

1. It points to his heart of sacrificial love

2. It points to the event that saves us and reconciles us to God

3. It points to the event that reconciles us to one another and makes us family

4. It points to the event that is to define our own paths in terms of living lives of sacrificial love and pouring ourselves out for God

D. So, even if we never had the Scriptures, and only understood this one act, we’d actually know all the basics of what we need to know about Jesus

E. And the breaking and eating of bread is such a simple act that even a child can understand by which Jesus says to us, “you are hungry beings. I am the bread of life. I can satisfy your deepest hungers.”

F. 2000 years later, our celebration of communion can be a profound experience of the crucified and risen Lord present with us.