

Luke 24:13-35

Easter 3

April 26, 2020

Sometimes it is just hard to see the big picture. When I was a kid, I wondered what it would like if I could look down from way up in the sky and see where I stood. The first time that I flew on a plane, I was a senior in high school. So, as a kid, I never had been able to see the view from a plane. Sure, you could look at photographs in a library. There was no internet as we know today. All I could do is dream what it must look like from way up there. I can remember having the idea – I wonder if I could somehow connect a camera to a bunch of helium balloons. Could I take a picture from way up in the sky looking down? I never figured out a way that I could make my little cheap camera take a picture. Little did I know that someday there would be google maps, and I see satellite images of almost any place in the world on my phone that I carry in my pocket? I still marvel how easy it is to see the big picture of almost anywhere in the world. Yet, with all the technology that we have in hand, sometimes it is just hard to see the big picture.

As we continue our series asking the question: **“What do we do if our plans fall through... Today, we that sometimes all you can do is take a walk.”** That’s what the two disciples in our text were doing. They were having a hard time to see the big picture of Jesus’ death and crucifixion. It was almost as if they were just zoomed in too far. If I would take the camera that is in front of me, and zoom in on my shoe as far as I could, could you tell that it is my shoe? If you could zoom into a single strand of thread of the shoe, could you even tell it was a shoe? In order to answer those questions, you would have to zoom out to get the big picture. In a sense, that is what Jesus is doing with these two disciples in our text today.

Everything was going so well for them. Perhaps, these two men were part of the group of 70 disciples that Jesus had sent out to do his work. But they didn’t get it. They were excited about Jesus. He seemed to have every answer. He was willing to stand up to anyone who opposed him. Perhaps, this was the one who would free them from the Roman government. They saw him do miracles. Everything was going so well. The crowd welcomed him as he rode into Jerusalem the week before. Then it happened – Good Friday. Their hopes were dashed. Their plans fell through. You can hear it in their words: **“BUT WE HAD HOPED that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.”** As they watched Jesus die a few days earlier, it looked like Jesus was a failure. They just couldn’t get past the cross. So, Jesus says to them: **“How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”**

So, as they went along on their walk, with downcast heads, Jesus began from the beginning. I guess we really have no way of knowing, but I wonder what Jesus talked as he explained the Scriptures to them. I imagine he started with creation and the Fall into sin. Instead of crushing Adam and Eve, he talked about how this Savior was going to crush the head of the Serpent. Perhaps, he explained the prophet Isaiah and how this Messiah had to suffer. Little by little, Jesus pulled the lens of the camera back. God’s plan of salvation was much bigger than one weekend in time. Everything that happened on Good Friday through Easter Sunday was part of God’s perfect plan.

There is a story about an old Chinese farmer who lived in ancient times. He was the envy of his rather small village because unlike most of the other farmers, he possessed a horse. One day, his horse ran away and his neighbors tried to console the farmer. *“What a shame that you’ve lost your horse; how sad.”* The farmer responded: *“Perhaps, it’s a bad thing; perhaps not. Who knows?”* Then a week later after the horse ran away, it returned to the old man’s farm accompanied by another horse. Now the farmer had two horses.

“How fortunate you are,” said the neighbors. *“Now you have not one but two horses.”* *“Perhaps I’m fortunate, perhaps not. Who knows?”* said the farmer. Three days later, the farmer’s only son was thrown from the horse while trying to steady it and his arm was badly broken.

“What a shame,” his neighbors once again said. *“Well maybe so, but maybe no,”* said the farmer: *“Who knows?”*

The next day, the emperor's army passed through the village looking for people to be immediately drafted and fight in a war that had already started. The old farmer's son was passed over because of his injury while the other young men in the village were forced to join the other soldiers. *"How fortunate you are. Well maybe so, maybe no. Who knows?"*

Everything worked out just fine for the farmer and his family. How true that is in our lives as well. God has this way of taking something that seems bad and turn it into something good.

As Jesus helped these two disciples to see the big picture, their hearts began to burn and their hearts were filled with joy. What Jesus did for these two disciples, he does for us. He doesn't want us to see the cross as a surprise or a failure. He doesn't want us to view the cross of life spinning out of control. The cross was necessary. It is not something bad. It is something good. The cross was God's plan to defeat sin, death and the devil.

When Jesus opened their eyes to see, they saw the big picture. My dear friends, I want you to go for a walk today. I want you to walk and see all the blessings that God has given you. But I want you to take a walk and look around you and see the big picture. As you see the big picture, you will see a Savior who loves you dear. What do you do when your plans fall through? Go take a walk with Jesus both now and forever. Amen.