

# SEEING JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

## *Seeing Jesus in Our Pain Changes Everything*

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – March 19, 2017

1. Read Luke 24:13-35, then pray:

Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we may see Jesus more clearly in His-story, so we can worship Him and be transformed by Him. And Father, please bring Your Kingdom to earth in us and through us for Your glory and our joy. In Jesus Name, Amen.

2. Why were Cleopas and the other Jewish disciple downcast? What did Cleopas and the other disciple expect Jesus to do for Israel?

- Cleopas and the other disciple, like the rest of Jesus' earliest Jewish followers, expected the Messiah to ransom, or set free, Israel from Roman occupation and oppression. The Jewish people were in the promised land, yet they were ruled by the brutal hand of Rome. Jesus' followers were expecting a New Exodus! They hoped that Jesus, the Messiah—just like Moses, who set God's people free from the Egyptians—would set God's people free from the Romans. So, when Jesus dies, their hopes of liberation died too. Cleopas and his traveling companion knew some of the story, but not the entire story.
- Read Luke 24:25-26. What did Jesus mean by this?
- Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Pain can blind you to seeing Jesus or pain can open your eyes to seeing Jesus more clearly." Share an experience from your life where you've experienced one or the other (or both!)

3. What is God's story? Read below and discuss.

- In eternity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, out of love, decided to share their eternal love with their image-bearers (Ephesians 1:3-7). The Garden of Eden would be God's temple where He dwelt with His image-bearers Adam and Eve and their offspring (Gen. 1:28). The image-bearers rebel and thus sin, death, and evil enter creation. God did not give up. He called Abraham and made a covenant with him (Read Genesis 12:1-3 & Galatians 3:8) and promised him a multiethnic family. Out of Abraham, the nation of Israel was born with a vocation and mission (Read Exodus 19:5-6 & Isaiah 49:6). God ransomed (set free) Israel from Egypt (the Exodus). Israel moves into the promised land, but because of rebellion they are removed from the promised land and brought back into the wilderness. But all throughout Israel's history, and in the Scripture (Old Testament) it speaks of a Messiah who is to come. This Messiah is Jesus, who starts the New Exodus by ransoming God's people from the Greater Rome called sin, death, and evil. After Jesus resurrected, the people of God are called the church, who have a vocation and mission (Read 1 Peter 2:9-11 & Matthew 28:18-20). God's people, the church, are in the wilderness journeying toward eternity called the New Heavens and New Earth (Read Revelation 21:1-3).

4. Why is it important that we, as God's church, know and understand the entire story?

5. Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Crucifixion was not only meant to kill; it was designed to inflict great pain and humiliation on the victim."

6. Pastor Derwin said, "Jesus not only identifies with our pain. Ultimately, you have victory because of His resurrection." Read 1 Peter 1:18-21 and Romans 8:34-39 and discuss.

7. When we see Jesus clearly in our pain, we find ourselves in His-story and knowing that we are more than conquerors because of Him who loves us!

8. Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help you see Jesus more clearly in your pain, knowing that we have ultimate victory because of His resurrection.