

The Qualities of Easter

We learn of the encounter the two disciples had with Jesus on the road to Emmaus that first Easter in the 24th chapter of Luke.

They didn't recognize him—Notice verse 16 "But God kept them from recognizing him."

They were overwhelmed by grief—Notice verse 21

"We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel."

That evening as they shared the evening meal with him—Notice verse 31

"Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Luke 24:32-35

What follows in the remainder of this chapter reveals 4 relevant qualities of Easter.

I. PEACE

Luke 24:36-40

Jesus knew His followers were confused and frightened. They had hit rock bottom.

"Peace be with you." The first words out of His mouth!

The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means fullness, wholeness.

Peace comes by realizing that we're forgiven.

Peace means that the grave is not the end of life.

II. JOY

Luke 24:41-43 *"Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder."*

The disciples were surprised by joy; they felt the resurrection was nearly too good to be true; overcome with grief, they're now overwhelmed with joy.

Joy is not the absence of sorrow. God gives joy in the midst of sorrow.

We're prone to want God to change our circumstances, when He wants instead to change our character.

A. Joy that comes from God enables us to feel secure even when our circumstances are shaky.

B. Joy is spiritual prosperity.

III. HOPE

Luke 24:44-46

When we know God is going to keep His promises, we have a secure hope that does not disappoint.

Jesus explains to His followers how all the details of His life were in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Jesus is the embodiment of God's promises to us.

Hope causes us to rejoice.

IV. MISSION

Luke 24:47, 48

The internal qualities of peace, joy and hope result in external action!

We have a mission to be witnesses by what we say and do.

Is God telling you to serve Him?

To help someone:

To say yes to something, or to give something up:

To take on a special project for His glory:

Conclusion:

We can walk away from Easter with renewed peace, joy, hope and a firm sense of mission.

We can live a purpose-driven life!

A. A life that will bring glory to God.

B. A life that will fill our minds and hearts with peace, joy, and hope.

C. A life that will cause people to ask what's happened to you.

"Easter happened—that's what!"