



Sunday, January 7, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Luke 24:13-35

Jonathan Edwards, an American pastor in the eighteenth century, famously made a series of resolutions during his preparation for ministry. Among those was this resolution about seeing Jesus and finding true joy, “resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world (where Christ is), as I possibly can, with all the power, might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.” Clearly, in his most lucid and clear moments, Jonathan Edwards understood the surpassing joy of knowing Christ and seeing Him in the Scriptures. His resolutions mark the necessity for even the best of human beings to have an external guide to discipline, rather than living with no motivation or direction at all.

If it was true for Jonathan Edwards, it is certainly true for us. There is no greater joy than seeing Christ clearly in Scripture. And there is no way to see Christ clearly in Scripture without a firm commitment to read the Scriptures and find Him in them. So, let this new year mark a new commitment to Christ and His purposes, beginning with discovering Him once again in the pages of the Bible.

Context

Luke 24 is a significant passage for a few reasons. One, it attests to the truth of the resurrection. Two, it marks Jesus' first appearance to people outside of Jerusalem. And three, it represents Jesus' own exposition of the Old Testament regarding Himself. Many Bible scholars spend their entire careers trying to answer the question, “how does the New Testament relate to the Old?” Well, at a most basic level, Jesus is how they relate to one another. Yes, there are many things that connect them, but for anyone to properly understand the Bible, they must understand the centrality of Jesus.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Seeing Jesus”

Read Luke 2:21-40

How can we see Jesus?

I. Through the opening of the Scriptures

II. Through the breaking of Bread

Discuss

- 1) What has your experience been with resolutions? Why do you think we so often fail to follow through on them?
- 2) Why does it require resolve (or a resolution) to read the Bible consistently? Why don't we just do it naturally?
- 3) What have been some of the most significant things the Lord has taught you through your own devotional time/reading the Bible on your own?
- 4) How can you enlist the support of your brothers and sisters in Christ to make devotional times a priority? How can you encourage others to do so?
- 5) What are some obstacles for us in making the regular communion services a priority? How can we spur one another on to overcome those obstacles?