



SERMON SERIES BY:
STEPHEN HERROD

MESSAGE 4:

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BY AND BY

PASSAGE: LUKE 24: 44-47 ESV

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to emphasize the need for the Spirit of Christ to open our minds so that we may truly understand the scriptures. It encourages perseverance in following Jesus, even during chapters of life filled with unanswered questions, as eventual understanding and revelation come through the Spirit’s work. The sermon stresses the necessity of God’s Spirit for true comprehension of the Word and urges humility by acknowledging our dependence on the Spirit of God. Ultimately, it celebrates the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and encourages worship, submission to Him as Lord.

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship entails embracing the discipline of submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and adhering to his teachings, even in the midst of unanswered questions.

Interestingly enough, prior to the scene we’re exploring today, these disciples spent over 3 years with Jesus almost every day and still grappled with understanding some of the scriptures. I want you to really grasp this. They walked alongside the word made flesh, the personification of God’s word, the personification of the scriptures almost every day for 3 years, and yet still did not understand some of the scriptures. And the plot twist is that this was by design. Jesus did not open up their minds to understand some of the scriptures that would help them make sense of it all, until after he resurrected from the dead. Jesus did not open up their minds to understand some of the scriptures that was relevant for their journey and purpose until after he resurrected from the dead.

For example, in Luke 9, verse 44, Jesus said to them that “the Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” Then Luke 9 verse 45 says, “But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask about this

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saying.” Now in this case, whether they were slow to catch on or God intentionally hid it from them is up for debate, but the reality is that the same way that Jesus eventually opened their minds after the resurrection, he could have opened their minds in this moment earlier on in the journey, but he chose not to. That’s chapter 9.

Family, as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be some chapters of the journey in which you are following Jesus and may not understand all of the scriptures, may not understand your purpose in Christ, may not understand why this or why that, but I encourage you this morning to keep on following him because you may only be in chapter 9 of your life. That was only chapter 9. That’s chapter 9.

Now fast forward 9 chapters to Luke chapter 18 verse 31-34. Jesus took the twelve disciples aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, and spit on him. They will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again. Then verse 34 says, “The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.” Now we know this isn’t the first time that the disciples were following Jesus and did not understand his sayings, but this is another time along their journey that they

were following Jesus and did not understand some of the things he was saying. And once again, Jesus could have opened their mind in this moment earlier on, but he chose not to. That’s chapter 18.

Family, as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be some chapters of the journey in which you are following Jesus and may not understand all of the scriptures, may not have an answer to all of your questions, may not be able to connect all of the dots, but I encourage you this morning to keep on following him because you may only be in chapter 18 of your life.

There is more to be understood in the chapters to come! There is more to be learned in the chapters to come! There is growth and development for you in the chapters to come! There is revelation and impartation for you in the chapters to come! There are answers for your question in the chapters to come! There is clarity for your confusion in the chapters to come! But you must keep following Him! This is not the time to turn away! This is not the time to fall away! But keep on following him! Discipleship entails embracing the discipline of submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and adhering to his teachings, even in the midst of unanswered questions.

SERMON POINTS

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1. *TO TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS IS LORD IS A MIRACLE FROM GOD.*

Now fast forward 6 chapters to chapter 24, Jesus appears to his disciples physically after he resurrected from the dead and the bible says he opened their minds to understand the scriptures concerning his death and resurrection! He showed how the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms pointed to the necessity of his death and resurrection, and the reality that he indeed is the Christ! Notice that verse 45 says that Jesus opened their minds so that they could understand the scriptures!

You see, they didn't get this understanding through their own study of the scriptures. But they received this understanding because Jesus opened their minds. This understanding was given to them by Jesus!

It could not have come from just reading the scriptures alone, but this revelation was given to them because Jesus opened up their minds and gave it to them!

This in fact is a miracle because this understanding of the scripture could not have happened outside of divine intervention.

They could have read the scriptures over and over again, but they would not have understood that the scriptures point to his death and resurrection and paint the picture that he indeed is the Christ had it not been for the Lord opening their mind to understand.

And I want you to stick a pin right there because we are going to revisit that in about two minutes, but let me first encourage you again to keep following Jesus through the chapters of your life that you may not fully understand, keep following Jesus through chapters of your life when you have unanswered questions, because as you keep following Jesus and seeking Jesus, you will get to the chapter when it is time for the Lord to open up your mind and understand! Let me encourage you that God can handle your questions, and God can answer your questions, and while it may not happen in the chapter that you ask Him, it may not happen in the chapter that you are filled with uncertainty, but keep on following him, because following him leads to revelation, and you will find that Jesus will answer your questions! Beloved, keep on following him and you will understand it better by and by! Your chapter 24 may or may not be in the morning, it may or may not be tomorrow, it may or may not be next week, but He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and as you follow him, he will open your mind so that you can understand!

Now let's revisit the miracle in the text. Verse 45 says, "Jesus opened their mind so that they could understand." These disciples would not have understood the scriptures outside of divine intervention and that is what makes it a miracle, and I must say that we desperately need the Lord to perform this

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same miracle in our lives on an ongoing basis!

2. *WE NEED GOD'S SPIRIT TO TRULY UNDERSTAND GOD'S REVELATION IN JESUS THE CHRIST*

It is not enough to just read the word of God, because if the Lord does not open your mind so that you can understand, you are doing nothing but reading.

It is not enough to just read your bible, because if the Lord does not open your mind so that you can understand, you will remain spiritually blind and will not truly understand the mysteries of God that have been revealed in Christ Jesus.

Family, we need to study the words of God, but that alone is not enough!

We need sound preachers who will preach God's word, but that alone is not enough!

We need teachers who will teach God's word, but that alone is not enough!

What we need in addition to those things is the Spirit of Christ to open up our minds so that we can understand!

1 Corinthians 2:12 says it like this: What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

there is no true understanding of God's word apart from God's Spirit!

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

Our intellect cannot do it!

Our knowledge cannot do it!

AI cannot do it!

But We need God's Spirit!

There is no room for us to boast because we cannot open our own eyes to receive God's revelation, we cannot open our own ears to receive God's revelation, we cannot truly open our own minds to receive God's revelation, but we need God's Spirit!

God has accomplished our redemption in such a way that there is no way to truly understand unless the Spirit of God opens our minds!

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

Will you please add this to your prayer list for that person you're praying will get saved?

Lord, open up their mind!

Lord, open up their mind the way you opened up the disciples' mind!

Lord, open up their mind the way you opened up my mind! Let them see that you are Lord, let them see you are the Christ, let them see how bankrupt they are without you!

Beloved, we need the Spirit of Christ, which is the Spirit of God, which is the Holy Spirit!

There is no understanding of God's word apart from the Spirit of God.

There is no revelation of God's word apart from the Spirit of God.

no one can even say "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

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You see, a true discipleship of Jesus Christ is one that yields to the Spirit of God, and when the Spirit of God is at work in your life, then you will appraise things the way God does. You will not regard the Word of God as folly, you will not regard it as foolishness, you will not regard it as powerless, you will not regard it as irrelevant, but you will regard it as the truth! And might I add that the grass withers away, the flowers fade, but the word of God will stand forever!

Might I add that the word of God is not dead, the word of God is not inactive, but the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

And a fundamental work of God's Spirit is to shatter pride. You see, pride is not your friend, but pride is your enemy. It wants you all to itself! It seeks to hinder you from God's blessings! It seeks to blind you of God's revelation! It keeps you from acknowledging the need for help! But the Spirit of God seeks to shatter our pride because we cannot be full of God's Spirit and full of pride at the same time! We cannot be full of God's Spirit and full of ourselves at the same time! We cannot receive God's revelation and be prideful at the same time! But when you allow the Spirit to shatter your pride, the Spirit of God will enable you to see your true, desperate

helplessness and on the other hand the all-sufficiency and beautiful picture of Christ Crucified and resurrected!

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

God's Spirit will remind you of what Jesus said!

Jesus said, the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you!

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

Jesus said When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth!

Beloved, we need God's Spirit!

I'll leave you with this!

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." That's 2 Corinthians 2:9.

Now catch this and I'm done, many people like to shout/praise on verse 9; many people get excited about verse 9, but the real excitement is in verse 10!

Verse 10 says "But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

You ought to get excited because God's Spirit has already revealed what no eye had not seen and what no ear had not heard, and that is the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ!

If God has opened your eyes to see that Jesus is Lord,

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If God has opened your mind to understand that Jesus Christ is Lord, then you are blessed and favored by God!

Jesus Christ is Lord! The reason why we sing, the reason why we praise him, the reason why we gather here, the reason why we serve, the reason why we worship him, the reason why we obey him, the reason why we trust him, the reason why we seek him, the reason why we love him, is because He is Lord!

QUOTES BY STEPHEN HERROD

“Keep following Jesus through the chapters of your life that you may not fully understand.”

“Keep following Jesus through chapters of your life when you have unanswered questions, because as you keep following Jesus and seeking Jesus, you will get to the chapter when it is time for the Lord to open up your mind and understand!”

“Let me encourage you that God can handle your questions, and God can answer your questions, and while it may not happen in the chapter that you ask Him, it may not happen in the chapter that you are filled with uncertainty, but keep on following him, because following him leads to revelation, and you will find that Jesus will answer your questions!”

“Keep on following him and you will understand it better by and by!”

“Your chapter 24 may or may not be in the morning, it may or may not be tomorrow, it may or may not be next week, but He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and as you follow him, He will open your mind so that you can understand!”

“The word of God is not dead and inactive, but the word of God is alive and active.”

“If God has opened up your mind to understand that Jesus Christ is Lord, then you are blessed and favored by God!”