

RESTORING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV) *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

“There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness.” -Jonathan Edwards, theologian

Luke 24:13 (NIV) *Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” **They stood still, their faces downcast.***

We do NOT recognize Jesus because:

1). We Put God in a Box.

Luke 24:18 (NIV) *One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”*

Luke 24:19 (NIV) *“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him*

²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

2). A Gap in Knowledge

a). I can do all things (Philippians 4:12)

b). Plans to Prosper You (Jeremiah 29:11)

Luke 24:22 (NIV) *In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”*

How can we recognize the resurrected Jesus?

1). Engage with Scripture.

Luke 24:25 (NIV) *He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

2). Take a step toward God.

Luke 24:28 (NIV) *As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.*

Luke 24:30 (NIV) *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*