



Scott Turansky, Senior Pastor
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LUKE 24:13-35

Easter Sunday

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we're grateful for your grace and we read in Ephesians that you lavish it on us with *all wisdom and understanding*. Lord, that is such a privilege to be the recipients of your gifts, that you lavish grace on us. I just want to thank you for the grace that you give. Some of that grace is common grace like the sun shining, or seeing beautiful sunsets, or the new blossoms on the trees and the flowers. Some of that is special grace, the understanding of your Son, Jesus Christ, and the empowerment that He does in our hearts and the Holy Spirit that is our comforter and counselor. So Lord, that grace that you offer us and you lavish on us is something we treasure. We don't take it lightly; we just enjoy it. Thank you for lavishing it on us, in essence spoiling us with your grace. Lord, cause us to be grateful people, thankful for what you're doing continually in our lives, recognizing the grace that you give every day, that today is a gift. We thank you for this day today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Today I'm going to do what we do every week. I'm going to go into God's word and I want to help us try to understand it. You see, it's important that we come to God's word, both in a scientific way and a spiritual way. I want you to understand what I mean by that. When we come to God's word we always do it a certain way. We come to God's word and we open it up and we read it and we try to understand what it means.

So the first goal we have is to interpret the scriptures. There's only one interpretation of any particular passage. I know sometimes we might have disagreements about which one of us is right, but really there's only one and our goal is to find that interpretation. So someone who says, "Well let me tell you what this means to me," is making an error in their statement if they're implying that it could be different for each person. It's not. There's one interpretation. We go to it and we try to find out the culture, the history, what the words are, the actual words in the text are saying, because we want to know what they meant at that time for those people. That's interpretation.

But then we take that and we ask the question, how can a book two thousand years ago or more be relevant to our lives? So at that point we go into the text in the interpretation. We draw out from that principle.

Now principles are timeless truths. Not only are they timeless (that means they apply to any person at any time), they're also not geographically sensitive. They're not culturally sensitive. They're not even age sensitive. So these principles apply to everyone.

Some of them are just information kinds of principles. Things like God is amazingly gracious. That's a principle we get from Ephesians 1. God is gracious. Or maybe it has an action point to it that people should be connecting with God in prayer. That's a principle that we get out of God's word. Now the timeless principle then can go over anywhere. It can go to Nigeria. It can go to Canada. It can go to New Jersey. It can go to California. It can go to anywhere. That principle can go to all kinds of places. It's a general principle and from that principle then it stands over you and me.

At that point we look for the third word. The first word was interpretation, the second word is principle, the third word is application. We're looking for applications and the applications are very personal. So we take the scriptures and we apply them. So today it's very possible and likely that you're going to get different applications than I would. When you leave here today you're going to take an idea that will apply to your life or your husband or your mom or your dad. You're going to take an idea that's going to help you with your schoolwork or help you at work. You're going to take an idea that God's word is going to apply to your life specifically. That's the amazing thing about God's word.

So there is somewhat of a scientific process we follow to get where we are. But then that whole process is enveloped in a spiritual process where the Holy Spirit is guiding us into those applications, helping us understand what the passage means, helping us derive those principles and apply them to our lives.

That's what we're going to do today as we look at Luke 24. So look there with me starting in verse 13. We're going to look at a very interesting story that I told some of you this week that reminds me of that TV show called *Undercover Boss*.

The show *Undercover Boss* I think is intriguing to us because we know that eventually he's going to reveal himself. The people that he's been working with, hanging around with during that period of time didn't know that he was their executive boss and somewhere are going to understand that he is the boss. They're going to start asking questions like, "What did I say?" That's what happens in this passage because Jesus did the *Undercover Boss* thing in Luke 24 starting in verse 13.

Let's read it. It says, *Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.*

First let's get our timing down. This is Resurrection Sunday. Jesus rose from the dead early in the morning. These guys now are going to make a trek seven miles away, which is going to take two to two-and-a-half hours. They're going to walk all the way to Emmaus. They are going to enter with Jesus and then they're going to walk back in time to two-and-a-half hours, maybe a little faster because of their excitement on the way back, in order to tell the people, the people in the upper room, the eleven that all the things that happened. And then those people in the upper room are going to have a visitation from Jesus. All that's got to take place on this one day.

So these guys are on their way walking and notice it says in the passage that as they were walking along *they were talking with each other about everything that had happened.*

If we look at the day, the day started early in the morning. What happened early in the morning before the sun even came up some women decided they would go and bring spices to the tomb and they would care for Jesus, not knowing how they would roll the stone away. They got there and found the stone was already rolled away, angels were there, and the angels told them, “Go tell everybody that He’s gone. *He is risen.*” So the ladies all ran back.

Mary Magdalene was one of them and she told Peter and John what had happened. They come running back to the tomb to make sure that what the women said was correct. They got back to the tomb, the guys go in there, and sure enough Jesus is gone. So they head back and they start telling everyone about it. Mary Magdalene now had come back and she has another special visitation from Jesus there in the garden. But Peter and John started heading back and started telling everybody about what happened.

Now today in our world the best way to find out about news, if you want to know the latest information about news, you know how you’re going to find that? Twitter. Twitter because the people there on the ground are tweeting and taking pictures. Reporters are watching the Twitter feeds so that they know what’s going on as they try to report it. Before the reporters are on scene they already know a lot of information because of the Twitter feeds.

They didn’t have Twitter back then. They didn’t have any tweets, they didn’t have Facebook, they didn’t have the internet, they didn’t have radio, they didn’t have TV, they didn’t have Google. They didn’t have anything. They had word of mouth.

So the word is spreading. The word is spreading to people as they’re getting up in the morning now. People are hearing the tomb is empty. There was an angel visitation to the women. The disciples, Peter and John, went and checked it out. There’s no body there. What is all that going to mean?

So the news is getting out and now these guys have got to get back home. They’re going back to Emmaus. Cleopas is the name of one of the guys. So they’ve got to get on the road. Where are they going to get their information now? They’ve got all the information they’re going to get until it makes its way down to Emmaus and other places.

So they’re walking down the road and they’re having a discussion. They’re talking about all the things that they’ve heard. They’re talking about Jesus. They’re talking about this whole week, in fact. The light bulbs are starting to come on, I think. They’re starting to say, “Wow this is really interesting. He did predict some things about His life.”

You see, this was Passover week and there are two stories going on right at the same time – the one they all knew and the one that they were just learning about and realizing.

The one story, the one they all knew was the Passover that happened every year. There’s a special time when the population of Jerusalem would swell because thousands and thousands of

people would come. These guys came earlier in the week bringing their lamb up to Jerusalem. Probably each had a lamb representing their families. The one-year-old lamb and the person then would take that lamb into the temple area, they would present it to the priest, the priest would decide whether it was a lamb that was spotless without blemish. If so, they could offer them that lamb as a sacrifice to remember the Passover, the story back from Exodus when the death angel passed over all those who had the blood on the doorposts and the lentils of their house. Those people didn't lose their firstborn sons. But everybody else did. Because when the death angel saw the blood, he passed over them.

Well that's the story that's going on on the physical level, but there's another story happening because God is presenting His lamb (His lamb that would be the sacrifice for our sins) who came in the week before, Palm Sunday, with all kinds of applause. Came into the city and then He was presented in the temple. He did miracles, He taught, He had discussions with leaders. And during all of that time there's an evaluation taking place and the Jewish leaders said, "No. We reject Him," and they crucified Him on Friday.

So on the earthly level they're celebrating Passover on Thursday night with all the disciples, but on Friday He's crucified on the cross. They brought Him down off the cross early on that day because it's the Sabbath and they don't want to have these bodies on the Sabbath, so they break the legs of the thieves. They were going to break Jesus' legs too, but He was already dead. They took them all day, they got them into the tombs, buried them, so they wouldn't be up on the Sabbath day.

Well Saturday must have been a very quiet Sabbath for all of these people. Dark. Dismal. "What are we going to do now?" kind of Sabbath for these people as they're wondering what's going to happen. The next day they can do something is Sunday because there's no walking, there's no taking trips on the Sabbath. They can't go back home to Emmaus on the Sabbath day. So the next day they can is Sunday morning. They planned it probably.

They're going to get up and they're hearing all of this news. Now they're having this discussion on the way about Jesus and all the things that took place. Verse 14 says, *They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.*

Verse 15: *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.*

Somehow supernaturally (and I don't know how exactly this took place) they couldn't recognize Jesus. Now He had already died. This is like a resurrection body maybe that He has, so maybe they couldn't recognize Him for that reason. There was probably some miracle going on that's preventing them from understanding who this is.

It's not uncommon for someone to come along and be walking on the road with them. Everybody walked in those days. This was a common path that they'd be taking. Here comes another person walking along and they must have been walking along long enough for these guys to have shared a little bit, irritated by Jesus' presence when He doesn't know what's going on.

Notice verse 17 as Jesus starts to play with them in this story. I find Jesus' personality fascinating. He loves people, He enjoys playing around, and that's what He's doing here it seems. In verse 17 *He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"*

Notice what happens in the very next part of the verse. *They stood still, their faces downcast.* In other words, here they are walking along and they're discussing, Jesus is listening, and all of a sudden He says, "What are you guys talking about?" and they stop. They're walking and their faces are downcast. It's like, "You've got to be kidding me."

Now the next statement that's made I think is one of those statements that Cleopas remembered after he had the revelation that this was Jesus. If you were in the *Undercover Boss* situation and you're working with the boss and it's the boss all of a sudden, he's revealed, you would say, "Oh no. What did I say the last couple days?" and you'd try to go back in the things you said. Well I'm sure this is one of those things he realized that he said. Because it's recorded here. I'm sure he told Luke, Luke wrote it down.

This is one of the things he says, "I can't believe I said this." He says in verse 18, *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?"* In other words it's kind of an insult. "Are you kidding me? You don't know what's going on here?" I think he must have remembered after the fact, "Oh I can't believe I said that to Jesus." So they're recording that here in the passage.

Now Jesus continues to play with them. Notice in verse 19 it says, *"What things?" he asked.* Now I think that one of the things Jesus is doing is He's trying to prepare them for what He's going to do with them. He's going to share some valuable things and He just wants to make sure they're interested and ready, and they certainly are.

Here's how they respond. Jesus says, *"What things?" They replied, "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. He was powerful. He was a powerful man, in other words, is what they're saying.*

Verse 20: *The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.* That's another piece of information that happened this week that made this whole week of Passover very different than any other Passover they experienced before.

Verse 21 is very interesting – *but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.* They hoped. They hoped that He was the one. There was a hope that went around all the Israelite people that the Messiah would come someday. When would that Messiah come? We didn't know.

The promise was made originally back just after they left the Garden of Eden. God promised to Adam and Eve someday the seed of the woman is going to come and crush that serpent's head. I think that Eve thought maybe it was one of her kids that was going to be the Messiah. But it turned out that it wasn't. So I'm sure that every Jewish girl would wonder, "I wonder if it's me. I

wonder if I'm going to be the mother of the Messiah or it's out of me that the seed is going to come."

They had hoped this especially because this Messiah had all kinds of prophecies in the Old Testament of what He did was a great person who was going to come and rescue them and save them and so on.

In particular right now in political history of the time, the Romans are governing this part of the world. The Israelites have to pay taxes, they don't have the freedom they'd like to have, they're governed by the Roman government. So I'm thinking that some of them are thinking, "Wow, He's got to rescue us from even the Roman government."

If you were having an election and you're going to elect someone, you would probably want to elect Jesus because He has a great healthcare plan. His healthcare plan is that He heals people all the time! What a great healthcare plan that Jesus would have. He's going to be an instant shoo-in if we're going to elect someone.

In fact if you're going to elect someone, you'd want to elect Jesus because wow He's got a great welfare plan too. He breaks food and it just keeps coming and coming! And so now people don't have any need for food. They've got all they need. What a great king He would be.

So they're saying, *"We had hope that he was the one who was going to Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."*

They're recounting to Jesus all the things that they'd heard, the things they're discussing. They're trying to sort this out. They're trying to figure out what does this mean.

Jesus (verse 25) *said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"*

In your New International Version if you have that you see how it says *slow to believe*. If you have one of the other versions, the King James Version or the ESV or the New American Standard Version, if you have that it says *slow in heart to believe*. Putting the word *heart* in there, it's really there. I want to make a point about the *heart* here. So I want you to see that the word is there. The New International Version tries to make it into words that are easy for us to understand, so they dropped out the word *heart*. But we're going to talk about the heart a little bit, so I want you to see that it's there.

He says, *"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in **all** the Scriptures concerning himself.*

Do you see the word *all* there? *Beginning with Moses* – now that’s the first five books of Moses are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Torah. That’s what He’s talking about when He says starting with Moses. Then *all the Prophets* (there’s all the writings of the prophets), *he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself*. Wow! What a Bible study! I would have loved to hear the interpretation and the principles and the application of that study. That would have been a bizarre time to walk with Jesus.

I wonder if Jesus went back to Noah and illustrated some of the analogies even of Jesus, what He would do in the New Testament. That Noah and his sons were the ones who would proclaim repentance and live righteously and so on. When people didn’t, they said, “You’ve got to get on the ark. Only the people who are going to get on the ark are the people going to be saved.” It’s not that you can get saved based on how better you are than somebody else. Only the people who get on the ark are going to get saved. And so God saved the people that were on the ark, and all the other people perished. Wow.

Jesus is an analogy of that ark, that representation, that understanding how God has a plan and He’s working that plan out in the world.

Then there’s Abraham. Abraham was on his way to sacrifice his son, Isaac, because that’s the instruction God gave him to do. Didn’t understand it, but he was obeying God. So on his way up, Isaac, his son, says, “Dad? We forgot something. We got the fire, we got the wood, but we don’t have the sacrifice.” Isaac says, “The Lord will provide.”

They get up there and Abraham believes, the New Testament tells us, that He’s going to actually kill his son and God’s going to raise him from the dead. That’s what he believes. So he gets ready to kill his son and he is stopped in the middle of that and God tells him there’s a provision over there in the thicket, a ram there. Use the ram. Blood sacrifice. Make that sacrifice instead.

It’s interesting all through the Old Testament, through the levitical system we have blood sacrifices that are helping people address the issue of sin. We’re looking forward to *the* sacrifice that would take place in the New Testament.

The story of Moses is a fascinating one. We’re going to look at the book of Numbers next and in the book of Numbers, chapter 21, there’s a story about how the people were in sin. All the people he’s trying to lead around the wilderness, they start complaining about stuff. They’re complaining about the food, they’re complaining about the leadership. Just like what happens in our family sometimes.

When they complained about all these things, there was a plague that came out. The plague was these snakes that started biting people and they started dying. The people complained to Moses, “Moses, go to God and ask Him to stop this plague.”

Moses goes to God and says, “God, please help us. What can we do?”
 God says, “Moses, go build a brass serpent, put it on a pole, and anyone who sees it will be healed from their snake bite.”

Now it's really interesting because it says everyone who looked at the snake who had a snake bite was healed. But you couldn't send your mother out. "Mom, go out and look at the snake for me." You couldn't send your child out. "Go look at the snake for me so that I can be healed." Every person had a personal responsibility to look at the snake.

It's just like a picture of Jesus and what Jesus did, that every one of us must come to the cross and make a personal decision. You can't rely on a relative or a friend or a mate. You have to each of us come before the Lord and you have to say, "Yes, I want the cross in my life." So we look at that cross and then we are saved. It's a beautiful picture of what's taking place.

As Jesus is unfolding these things to these guys, they are getting excited. We'll read about their excitement in a moment.

I'm sure that one of the verses looked at was this very popular one in Isaiah 53 that was written in the Old Testament many years before even crucifixion was designed. It says these words in Isaiah 53:4-7 – *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

Wow. What an amazing prophecy about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the ramifications that it has for our lives.

Well they got it. These two guys that are walking along are so excited because now they're getting it. They're starting to understand all this stuff about Jesus and all the truths that were there.

Verse 28 – notice what happens. *As they approached the village (to where?) to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.* "Okay guys, see you later!" He says as He continues on as if He was going farther. Notice they say in the next verse, "No, no. Come on! You've got to stay with us." *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.

It's likely mid-afternoon. They've got to cook whatever food they have. Or somehow they've got to prepare what they're going to eat. They're going to sit down and they're going to eat the food together. So there's some time spent here. I'm sure during that time Jesus continues to tell them all about the scriptures and they're eagerly eating this up and trying to understand all these things. And then it comes – the revealing of the boss. He reveals Himself.

Verse 30: *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.* I can imagine the scene. You have to remember, this might remind you of the Lord's Table. But these two guys were not at the Last Supper with Jesus. So all of the words were similar, but these guys weren't there. That was the Eleven. These are two other disciples.

Jesus had a lot of disciples besides the twelve that we speak of usually. He had 120 disciples in the upper room. He had all kinds of disciples that were around and these were two of these guys, Cleopas and his friend.

As they're getting ready to eat, everybody's sitting down at the table, like we often do, and everybody's waiting because sometimes somebody's going to say something like, "Who would like to ask the blessing on the food." I don't know if that happens in your home, but if that happens in my home until that happens everybody's kind of waiting what's going to happen. Now if you have guests over it's typical that the guests are waiting because the host is going to offer thanks for the food.

It's interesting in this case that Jesus is the one who's going to offer the thanks for the food. I imagine, and often that happens, if you have a guest, you might say to the guest, "Why don't you pray the blessing on the food." So maybe that happened around the table here. Jesus, it says, *took the bread, broke it* and He prayed and He thanked God for this. As He did, *then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.*

This happened really fast. Look at verse 31. You've got to catch this because it happens quick. *Then their eyes were open and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.* Boom, He's gone. Wow.

Just imagine that moment. In that moment when He disappears from their sight, what would you think of first? I mean I'm sure they just sat there with their mouths open. Like I can't believe this just happened. That's the first thing. I can imagine the total shock and surprise that that was Jesus we just spent time with one-on-one doing a personal Bible study?

Then I think the thoughts start coming back to them. "Oh no. What did I say? Did I use the wrong kind of language? What did I say? Did I ask some questions?" So these thoughts start coming back. That's what we read starting in verse 32, another one of those statements that Cleopas remembered and told Luke or spread around that this is what he said. Notice verse 32. It says, *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?"*

What does that mean? Their hearts were burning. It means their hearts were excited. They were energized. They were empowered. They were so grateful that they had this insight that God was giving to them.

I have an intense desire to see Calvary Chapel set on fire for Jesus Christ. I want you to know that's not going to happen with some latest programs or good promotion or some gimmick of some kind. It's going to happen when the people at Calvary Chapel come into connection with the Savior of the world.

I know that many of you have had that fire burning in your hearts at one time, and for some it's died down and it needs to be livened up. It needs to be excited. There are two things that happened in this passage that contribute to that in each of our lives. You want the fire? Here's how you get it. You want your heart to burn?

There are two things that take place in this passage that I can see. One is that there was a desire to connect with the scriptures and, secondly, there was a desire to be with Jesus. Both of those are important.

There's a contrast with the word *heart* in this passage. In verse 25 Jesus says to them, "*How foolish you are, and how slow in heart to believe all the prophets have spoken!*" There's this slowness of heart. In other words, your hearts were kind of dull at one point. It says then our hearts came alive as they reflect back on this in verse 32. "*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*"

Our hearts are busy places, especially in our society with all of the technology and all of the busyness that we experience. Our hearts are racing with all kinds of things going on regularly. So it's very important for us to pause and to intentionally allow our hearts to settle and be connected to Jesus Christ.

God has given us His word to do that. That's why it's so important for us to study God's word, to memorize God's word. That's why it's so important for us to be connected to God's word in a powerful way. It's when we do that that God settles our hearts. God aligns our hearts with His desires. God has given us His word and it's powerful. So I would recommend that we all consider studying (not just reading God's word but studying) God's word more and allowing those interpretations to turn into principles to turn into applications so we are different people in our lives.

I always think about my dad who had devotions with us as a family when we were growing up. He would hold the Bible in his hand and he would say, "Are you ready? I don't know whether He's going to say something big or He's going to say something small, but God's about to speak."

I have this sense of anticipation every time I turn on my iPad Bible that God's going to say something to me. That anticipation we need. It's a powerful one.

Let's finish the verse in this section and then I'll make a couple more comments. Verse 33 says, *They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.* They were eager. They had to go back and tell everybody because the word's only passed by word of mouth. They've got to get back to the city (this is Easter Sunday). They've got to tell people what they learned because now it's been confirmed that Jesus has risen from the dead. It has been confirmed by Jesus Himself the things that have been taught.

So when they got back to Jerusalem *there they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."* Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The first thing is that we are connected by God through the scriptures. The second thing is that we have a hunger inside to be with the Savior. They didn't even know it was Jesus, but they

knew there was something there. Their hearts burned within them. “Hey, would you stay? Stay with us for the meal.” They wanted more of Jesus. They wanted more to be connected to Him, and that is so valuable for each one of us. We need more. We need more of Jesus.

It’s an amazing thing what Jesus did on Easter, rising from the dead, providing for us the documentation, the stamp that says, “Yes, He accomplished the task.” He died on the cross for our sins and rose again for us. That is not just a statement from the Bible; it’s a principle that has an application and that application is that each of us individually must say, “I want that Savior in my life. I want Jesus Christ to control me.”

Every young person here needs to make that personal decision for Jesus Christ. Every older person needs to make that decision. No one else can make the decision for you. It is Jesus and you.

We first must recognize that we are a sinner. God saves sinners. If you don’t recognize that you’re a sinner, well that’s where you’ve got to start. You’ve got to start before you get saved. Once you understand that you’re a sinner and you need Jesus Christ then you accept Him as your Lord and Savior, amazing things happen inside of you. That new life comes in and that resurrection power that God offers is available to you to deal with life, to deal with the personal problems that you’re experiencing now in your life, to deal with the traumas, the challenges that you face now. It’s that resurrection power that God provides for us. He wants to give it to every one of us.

If you’ve not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I want to encourage you to make that decision now. Make that decision today. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart, to save you from your sins, to put you on a path of personal relationship with God. It will change so many things for you. It’s a beautiful decision that each of us must make ourselves.

Would you stand with me and let’s pray together.

If the Lord’s speaking to your heart today and you’d like to ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart, there are counselors on both sides. I’d encourage you to slip out, pray with one of them, and they’ll pray with you as you accept Jesus Christ into your heart today.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we do thank you so much for revealing yourself to us. We thank you for the scriptures and the way that your Holy Spirit illumines them for our own hearts so that we can be empowered, we can understand more about who you are and who we are and how you have a plan for our lives. Lord, we ask for your blessing today each one of us. Set our hearts on fire for you. We need you. We desperately need you in our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.