

A dirt road lined with large, leafy trees, likely the road to Emmaus. The road is unpaved and runs through a wooded area with many large trees. The ground is covered in dirt and some sparse grass. The trees are lush green, suggesting a warm climate. The road curves slightly to the right in the distance. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

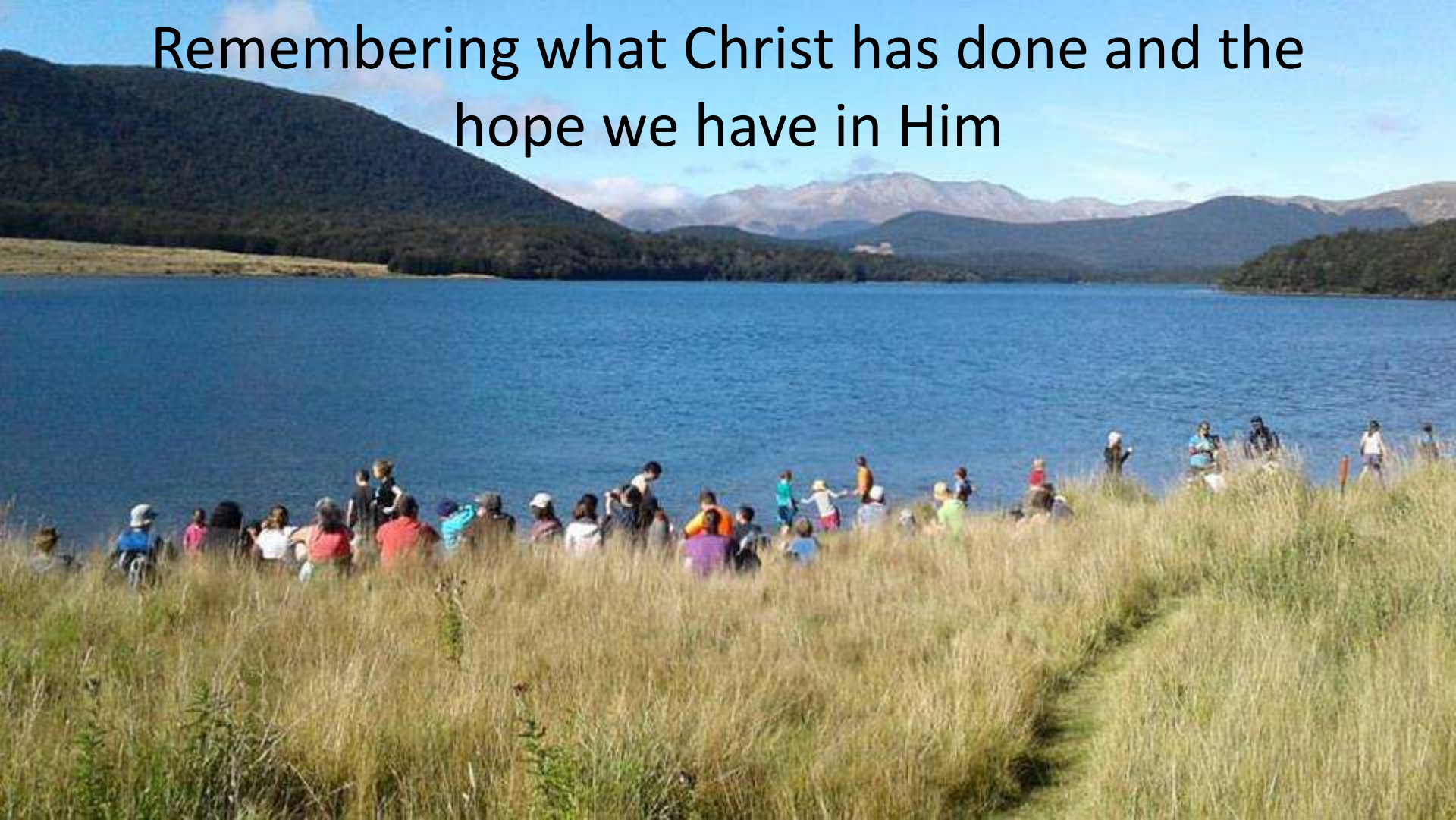
Christ is Risen

Luke 24:13-35

On the road to Emmaus

# Celebrating Easter

Remembering what Christ has done and the hope we have in Him



# The first Easter wasn't that clear

- Luke 24:13-35
- This story is helpful for us in trying to understand some of the roller coaster the disciples were on as they tried to come to terms with the tumultuous events of passion week leading to the culmination of Jesus dying and then the incredible reports of him rising from the dead.

# From disappointment to....

We are going to look at four verses from this story that summarise what was going on for Cleopas and his mate and provide us a pattern for ourselves to consider when we face up to disappointments in our lives.

“But we we’re hoping he was the one!” v21

- These guys express their expectations not only about Jesus purpose, *but how they expected him to fulfil it*

To them they expected the Redeemer of Israel...

1. Shouldn't have died
2. Should have at least gone down with a fight
3. If he was dead, he should stay dead!

# Expectations affect all relationships

- Realistic – the boss should pay our wages
- Unrealistic – we should be paid even if we don't do any work
- We have expectations about what our spouses, colleagues, friends, Church, society etc. *should* be doing
- Some expectations are created through conversation, many through assumption

Unmet Expectations  
lead to  
Resentments

hunger for healing

# “We were astonished” v22

- In this verse the disciples express some of the emotion they felt by their response to the events over the previous week.
- Being astonished can be overwhelming and they seem to express it in such a way that it has left them feeling “unhinged” and for that reason, they are walking away



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**Expectation is the  
root of all heartache**

**- William Shakespeare**

# Unmet Expectations

- We all know what it is like to feel let down.
- I imagine the disciples felt feelings of betrayal, confusion, grief, lost, sad, abandoned, hopeless, anger, loneliness, etc
- I know this and you know this, because we have experienced it in our own relationships as Bosses, spouses, children, parents, friends, Church, God – fail to meet our expectations of what we *think* they *should* do.

# They walk away, we walk away.

- A typical response from an unmet expectation is to create some distance by walking away or building some sort of wall
- Sometimes we fight it, but still something happens between us and the offender even if, like in this instance, the so called offender was purely innocent and the problem was *our expectation of them*

# Jesus responds...But...v26

- In the aftermath of feeling let down from an incident there is an opportunity for healing.
- I love that in this story, God reaches out to these guys who had perhaps given up
- When we are tempted to walk away, God often reaches out to us through some sort of opportunity and if we are willing to be open, then, like these guys, there may be some hope

# Hope for us?

- In this story Jesus comes alongside, someone they know and trust but they do not see it
- Often our emotional response to a certain incident makes us blind to the truth and the opportunity for healing that is presenting itself to us – we are still focused on walking away
- At times like this having friends that wont let us go, counsellors that support us, and a willingness to entertain alternatives might just get us through

# “...and their eyes were opened” v31

- Cleopas was given a choice and decided to invite Jesus back into their lives
- When they did, the truth began to transform them.
- If we try and keep God and people at arms length and entertain them without letting them come into our lives, we will never be transformed, we will never heal and it is likely the resentments will grow.

# Opening our hearts

- If we are hurting from some unmet expectations, perhaps we can learn from these disciples
- We may first have to pray for God to help us look again at what has happened!
- It may involve making a decision to sit down with the person for whom we have the problem and clarify with them where we were coming from and try to understand where they were coming from



Expectation



Reality



**SAW HEDGEHOG CAKE ON  
PINTEREST**



**NAILED IT**

# The Zombie Apocalypse

**WHAT YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE:**



**WHAT IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE:**



# Unpacking our expectations of God

- If we are honest, many of us have some assumptions about *what God should do* and that has an effect on our health and well-being
- Many of these ideas have no basis in revelation but reflect more our own desires
- When bad things happen, or God's representatives in the Church or Christian community fail to meet these expectations we have a reaction

# Feeling Upset

- When it seems that God has failed to meet our agenda, we may feel let down, hopeless, lost, abandoned, personally attacked, angry
- We may then look for other incidents in our lives to reinforce the position we have taken
- We may then choose to walk away – if not physically, but emotionally or spiritually by putting up walls to stop God, or his people doing this again.

# God's Grace

- God will not let us go easily!
- At these moments there will be some way that God will try and reach us, through a friend, a song, an opportunity to revisit our expectations of him and find the truth of his nature, his goodness, his healing and his grace.
- Our job is to entertain that, be open to it and resist the wall building or running away that has become so natural

# Open to Healing

- It may take some time to renegotiate with Jesus, but at some point there will come a time to make a choice
- Healing and renewal will come if we make the decision to invite him into our hearts and lives, only then, can the truth of his lordship really transform us and we can discover what we may come to expect from Him

# So what now?

- Recognising and facing the impact of our expectations in our relationships is important.
- If we are struggling in this area with relationships at home, at work or school or with God, we may need some support to guide us through
- Hopefully the road to Emmaus gives us some clues on how we might manage these