



# Son Rise Community Church

Sunday, July 17, 2005

This Week's Message Given by Joseph Raiker

## Finding Genuine Hope



In Luke 24 we have the amazing story of two disciples who had followed Jesus for three years. They loved Jesus. And were close to Him.

One day they were walking on the road back to Emmaus when Jesus joined them. Yet, they were so discouraged over His death they didn't even recognize Him. Because of what I call "mistaken contemplation," they had lost all hope.

What do I mean by "mistaken contemplation"? Simply this: We take our eyes off the risen Christ and instead focus on our problems. And what happens when we do that? We quickly lose hope.

Throughout my life, when I find myself facing a major crisis or dilemma, I tend to be the kind of person whose vision becomes blurred, and I can't see clearly. In these moments I find my perceptions are shot.

Why? Because my contemplations are all one-sided. And I often shut out the very people who can deliver me from my mistaken contemplation.

Now, I have a feeling you probably struggle in the same way...just like these two disciples from Emmaus. Notice that their vision was blurred about the very person who was walking and talking to them. Their contemplations were entirely wrong.

The One whose death they were mourning was alive and talking with them, but they did not realize it because their focus was on the wrong thing. The very One whose death they were feeling so deeply was in fact alive and with them, yet their vision was blurred. Their contem-

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### Weekly Services & Bible Studies

Sundays, 8:30 AM  
Sunday School\*

Sundays, 9:30 AM  
Worship Service\*

Sundays, 5:30 PM  
Youth Drama\*\*

Sundays, 6:30 PM  
Youth Group\*\*

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM  
Wednesday Night  
Bible Study\*\*

1st Sunday of the Month  
Communion

\*Meeting at The Fit Club,  
196 North Industrial Drive  
in Orange City

\*\*Meeting in Deltona at  
3048 Lynnhaven Street

## The Prayers of the Holy Spirit

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us. – Romans 8:26*

Have you ever been deeply concerned about something or someone, but you didn't know what to pray? "What can I say," you wonder. "I don't know how to articulate this." But did you know that sometimes some of the best prayers are the shortest and the simplest?

We think, God likes flowery, long prayers. In fact, the longer they are, the more impressed God will be. I don't think so. Jesus spoke of the Pharisees who loved to pray long prayers. He said, "They think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:7-8).

Sometimes we come to God and we say, "Lord, I want to pray for this situation. Um, well, um..." We want to pray, but we don't

know how to articulate it. It may be nothing more than a grunt or a groan. But God understands that prayer. Whether you have a beautiful prayer to pray or whether you don't know what to say, present it to God, and the Holy Spirit will help you. According to Romans 8:26, "The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses." The Holy

Spirit helps us to pray.

Remember all that God has done for you and all that He is doing for you. He saved you. His Holy Spirit indwells you. He assures you. He teaches you. And He helps you to pray. So let's yield to Him. Let's open up our hearts to the work that He wants to do in our lives.

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### *Hope...cont.' from page 1*

plation was one-sided.

But notice what happened when they suddenly recognized who Jesus was...they became changed people!

*<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke the bread.*

They walked back immediately that night on that dangerous road to Jerusalem to give witness. Their safety did not mean a great deal to them, because they had seen the risen Christ!

They moved from fear to courage. They went from pain to joy. They were transformed from hopelessness into hope.

My friend, that is the story of Easter. No matter how hopeless your situation might seem, the Lord is there. He knows and understands. And when you take your eyes off your problems and place them on the risen Christ you will find genuine hope. Just like these two disciples from Emmaus.

You can live a life filled with hope, but only as you make Jesus...our risen Lord...the focus of your contemplation. When you do, you will find that any other focus is indeed a mistaken contemplation!

## **SonRise Mission Team Makes it to Arizona...**

Arizona, here we are! After a slightly delayed and diverted leg of the plane trip, a late plane landing and arrival, air sickness, a couple of stomach bugs, and Audie getting run over by a car (yes, I said a CAR, but he is doing okay, as of last report), the Mission Team is safe and sound in Arizona. Satan has been doing his best to thwart our efforts, but our team is winning...GO TEAM!

The team is spending this weekend working in Flagstaff at a church and then they will be on their way to Hidden Springs Bible Church on the Navajo Reservation near Tuba City (probably today), to host a Vacation Bible School!

Please be in prayer for the entire team this upcoming week. Our prayers here, are sure to lift them up out there!

Also be in prayer for those they will be ministering to. While the younger kids are easier to share the Word with, the older kids and their parents are more set in their ways and their Navajo beliefs. Be sure to pray for them all this upcoming week.

## **Adult Drama Team...**

We are currently trying to form an adult drama team for SonRise Community Church. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please see Pastor Carl.

## **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

It's not too late to join us for our Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. We have classes for adults, youth and children. It's a great time for us to come together and grow as a church, as the adults are currently doing the "Your Church Experiencing God Together" study, which is really proving to be an exciting study! Please consider joining us.

## **Join Us for Our Evolution Bible Study Videos on Wednesday Nights**

Don't miss this Wednesday night's Bible Study, as we will be continuing our videos for our Evolution vs. Creationism Bible Study. "Dr. Dino's" got more great interesting facts to throw at us! Be ready for a great lesson. Even if you haven't been coming, this is something that you can join right in!



Remember that we have a youth conference August 5th & 6th in Daytona. We will be staying out there Friday night. The cost of the conference is \$20.00 and \$15.00 for motel plus food. More to come when we get back from the Mission Trip!

## **Weekly Offerings**

Last Week's Offerings  
\$653.00

July Offerings  
\$1033.00

Building Fund (to date)  
\$385.00

## Weekly Sermon Notes

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### July Birthdays

Sabrina Cuhna (7/7)  
Rachel Drake (7/7)  
Bill Lester (7/11)

Loren Kraker (7/13)

### July Anniversaries

Bill & Nora Lester (7/27)

## PRAYER LIST

*Please remember to keep the following in your prayers and also check out our Prayer Board online, which is updated on a daily basis for more prayer requests and praise reports!*

**Keep the Mission Trip in your prayers over the next week.**

**Pray for our team members and those they will be touching during their trip.**

- April Kalata
- Diane Kalata
- Audie Lemmon
- Tina, Jon & Rachel
- The entire Mission Team
- Courtney Gossett (ovarian cyst)
- Randy Miller
- Paul, Carl's cousin in Oregon (lungs)
- Willie Griggs (cancer)
- Tina Weiss
- Peggy (confirmed lung cancer, removing a lung in less than two weeks)
- Judy Woodward
- LouAnne (lots of back pain)
- Chuck & Betty Plank
- Stacy & Lacey and their family
- Kelli's friend, Mary
- Debbie Weston's sister, Rose (health)
- The Maxon's and their move
- Nora's mom, Sharon Crawford (health)
- Kelli's mom, Glenda, and Kelli D.
- Betty's daughter, Karen (health)
- Betty's daughter, Carol (health)
- Tina Weiss' Mom

*Need to access the online membership directory?*

*The membership directory user name is: sunrise and the password is churchfriends.*