

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Singing: 10:1, 3 – 115:1-4 – 190:1, 2, 4 – 188:3-4 – 445:3-4

Intro: The crisis of faith in the life of Jesus' disciples

A. The Father's drawing ministry is *through the preaching of Law and Gospel*

B. The Father's drawing ministry often includes a crisis in faith (Luke 24:19-24)

1. Christ's disciples struggled to grasp the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS

I. Why is it needed? II. Why was it resisted?

I. WHY IS CHRIST'S SACRIFICE NEEDED?

A. Jesus' disciples didn't think *His cross was needed* (Matt. 16:22; Lk 24:20)

B. Yet Jesus' ministry always preached *spiritual salvation from sin* (Lk 4:18-19)

1. He came to save and not (yet) to condemn (Is. 61:2b)

2. The way of suffering/cross was *a must* (Lk. 24:26): Why?

a. it was decreed: Gen. 3:15; Luke 18:31; Acts 2:23; 3:18

b. it was needed:

- Heb. 9:22: *without shedding of blood is no remission*

- 1 John 3:7 *and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth ...*

c. it was prophesied: Luke 24:27

C. Learn: *when I see the blood, I will pass over* (Ex. 12:13)

II. WHY WAS IT RESISTED (OR DISBELIEVED)?

A. Gospel stories don't hide how the disciples resisted teaching of Jesus' cross

1. See Matt. 16:16 & Luke 24:21

B. Why did they and do we still tend to *resist the “Christ alone” doctrine*?

1. By the common thought that **Christ alone is not enough**

a. some look to their good works as part of the basis of hope

b. others look to their good frames and feelings as part of this hope

2. Why are *good works* and *good frames/feelings* excluded in justification?

C. Jesus took the two Emmaus travelers to travel back in the OT: Luke 24:27

1. Jesus opened the *Gospel of God’s wisdom in the method of salvation*

2. The two received here the *revelation of Jesus Christ’s glory* (Luke 24:32)

3. Here the two tasted the only comfort in life and death

a. their security was no more in Jesus’ physical presence

b. their security was now in the *knowledge and trust* in Jesus’ merits

Consider: The journey to **trust on Jesus alone** often is a crisis in faith: why?

A. Because God’s plan of salvation is contrary to our thinking (Rom. 10:3)

B. Because to live by faith and hope on Jesus’ promise is *mighty hard!*

1. it **feels** more secure to have the *right feelings and experiences*

2. it **feels** so contrary to believe to be righteous while feeling unrighteous

a. see Catechism Q & A 60; Rom. 4:5

b. real spiritual growth is *when more and more we give ourselves up to Jesus Christ to be saved on basis of His merits*