

Are You Sad?

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He is a Bible believer. Mr. Brady, he was Press Secretary for Ronald Reagan, he believes the Bible now. I'll tell you, 30 seconds after you die, you'll believe every word of this book. I'm not sure where you'll be but you'll believe this book. Everybody in eternity is a Bible believer. They may not live that way, they may not die that way, but they'll spend forever that way. Believe in the book.

Well, we have in our church, a lot of you have met him, we have the world's smallest minority group, we have a saved, Jewish, street preaching lawyer. Now, there aren't many of those. You know, it doesn't cost me anything to go out and stand up for the Lord in public but for a man to stand in front of his business and preach the Gospel, that's admirable. Anyway, he's always bringing me lawyer stories. Any lawyers here tonight? The United Way realized that it had never received a donation from the city's most successful attorney so a United Way worker paid the lawyer a visit in his lavish office. The United Way guy opened the meeting by saying, "Our research shows that even though your annual income is over 2 million dollars you don't give a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give something back to your community through the United Way?" The lawyer thought for a minute and said, "First, did your research also show you that my mother is dying after a long, painful illness and she has huge medical bills that are far beyond her ability to pay?" Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Uh, no, I didn't know that." "Secondly," said the lawyer, "did it show that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair and is unable to support his wife and six children?" The stricken United Way rep begins to stammer an apology but is cut off again. "Thirdly, did your research also show you that my sister's husband died in a dreadful accident leaving her penniless with a mortgage and three children, one of whom is disabled and another that has learning disabilities requiring an array of private tutors?" The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said, "I, I'm so sorry. I had no idea." And the lawyer finished, "So, if I didn't give any money to them, what makes you think I'd give any to you?" That ain't right. Amen.

Well, trouble with internet and traveling around and websites and all that as you are put in this position where you've got to preach a sermon once and then never preach it again, but I'm going to preach one I've preached a couple of times this year because it's a blessing to my heart and if you heard this somewhere on the road here in the last year or so, maybe I'll do better tonight than I did that night. But I want you to turn with me to Luke 24 and I've got the cure tonight for what ails you. Luke 24 and I'll tell you, this

message, it has a very, very long introduction and it's a very short sermon so if you can get through the introduction, the sermon will be easy. Luke 24:1, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre," this was Jesus' disciples, women first, the men are home; the men couldn't come because the women left early for the tomb and there wasn't anybody to fix them breakfast so the men are sitting around waiting for the women to get home and fix their breakfast. That's not in the text. It's in the marginal notes. But, "they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout."

Father, I pray you'd help me tonight to tell the truth and, Lord, to speak it in the right way. Lord, I pray that you'd help us tonight to take your word personally so we could benefit from it. I pray, God, that every one of us would leave better for having come because you've spoken to our hearts through your word. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

I suppose in reading the Bible it does not amaze me that God created the heavens and the earth. Of course, he could. It doesn't amaze me that he could lay down his life and take it up again. He is God, of course he could. It doesn't amaze me that Jesus rose from the dead. Whatever God does, I admire it, I adore it, I want to praise him and worship him for it, but I never go, "Wow! How could God do that!" What amazes me when I read the Bible is us. Now, for 3 ½ years if Jesus said anything over and over and over again it was, "I'm going to Jerusalem. I'm going to be betrayed at the hands of men. I'm going to die on the cross and on the third day I'm going to rise again." John said if we wrote down everything he said and did, the world couldn't contain the books, but in the books that we have, how many times did Jesus say, "I'm going to die. I'm going to be buried, the third day I'm going to rise again." And on the morning of his resurrection, the men are sitting at home and the women are coming to anoint his corpse so it doesn't smell so bad as it decomposes. That's amazing. It's amazing to me that you could hear Jesus himself declare to you for 3 ½ years his purpose in coming to this earth and how he would accomplish it and you not believe a word of it. Isn't that amazing?

So, pastor, the fact that you preached that once three years ago is no reason not to preach it again. The fact that you taught that Sunday School lesson last year is no reason not to go over it again. You can sit in front of the Lord of glory and not hear what he says. You can hear what he says and not believe it. "Peter, Peter, who am I?" "Well, you're the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Good for you. Now, Peter, here's what I'm going to do: I'm going to go to Jerusalem and die." The Bible says Peter took him, he laid hands on Jesus and began to rebuke him at the suggestion that he would die on the cross. "Well you know, see these buildings here?" "Yeah." "See this temple." "Yeah, I see it." "Well, here's what we're going to do: destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up again." "Why, it took 44 years to build that thing!" We're not talking about that thing, we're talking about this. Come on, you go through those Gospels and if Jesus said it once, if he said it a dozen times, if we had the full record how many thousand times in 3 ½ years did those people hear Jesus say, "I'm going to Jerusalem. I'm going to die. I'm going to rise again." And they never heard it. They never got it. They never believed it.

Look what they're doing on resurrection morning. They're coming to grieve and lament and to take care of a body. They don't believe he's risen from the dead. The Bible says in verse 4, when they found the tomb empty, "they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?" The angels know what they're doing. They're looking for a dead man. Jesus is not a dead man. He is risen from the dead. Listen, not only did the enmity of Rome not stop him from fulfilling his purpose, not only did the opposition of the Jews stop him from completing his purpose, the unbelief of his disciples did not stop him from fulfilling his purpose. These people scoffing and mocking nowadays, they don't believe in the coming of the Lord, they don't believe in a rapture of the church, they don't believe Jesus Christ must set foot on this earth again and set up a kingdom. If nobody believes that he's going to do it, if the church doesn't believe it anymore, he's coming for them, praise the Lord.

So the Bible says here, verse 5, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen." Now look, "remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee?" Who is he saying this to? He's not saying this to Pilate. He's not saying this to Herod. He's saying this to the women who followed him all the way to the cross and stood at the foot of the cross weeping and watched him die. He's saying this to the women who have waited three days, waited for the end of the Sabbath day to come out and take...they love him. They adore him. They want to preserve his memory and preserve the body as long as they possibly can. They just don't believe him. Do you know something, old pals, Bible Baptist church, King James carrying visitors here tonight straight as an arrow, "Man, we're straight in our doctrine." I'm getting to something: I'm not saying you don't love the Lord, I'm saying our problem from that wall to this wall or from this pulpit to the back wall, our problem is we don't believe him. We think we do. We think we understand what he's saying. We think we've got a grip on what he's doing. I'm going to show you tonight we don't believe him and that's my problem and it's your problem. "Are you saying I don't believe the Bible?" Oh, we believe the Bible, I mean, "King James Bible. Thank you for it." Yeah, I know but look at all the stuff that's in it that we cut out of our lives just like an NIV cuts out of their text. I mean, I'm not saying I don't know what it says. They knew what he said, they just didn't believe it.

The angel said, "remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Now look at this short simple verse, look at verse 8, "And they remembered his words." Do you know what I wish it said? "And they believed his words." You see, they have been reminded of what he said, they still don't have a clue as to what's going on.

The Bible says in verse 9, "And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles." Now watch, under who? The apostles. Now we're getting somewhere. Now we've got Peter and James and John and Bartholomew and Thaddeus and Simon, the

whole...here we go. "And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not." Now brother, is that not astonishing? Come on, just park there for a minute and think about that. Peter, James and John, Mount of Transfiguration, raising of Jairus' daughter, walking on the water, feeding the 5,000, cleansing the lepers. They've seen it all from start to finish and when the women come and say, "The tomb is empty. The angel said he's risen. He did what he said he was going to do in Scripture." Their words, the witness that came from the empty tomb and preached the Gospel, come on now, they said, "Christ died, was buried, he's risen from the dead." Their words seemed to John as idle tales. That's incredible. Their words seemed to James, to Peter, to Thaddeus, to Thomas, as idle tales and they believed them not.

That's pretty incredible, isn't it? Come on, man, we read through the Bible to read through it, you'd better stop and think about this thing. For 3 ½ years they saw God manifested in the flesh, work miracle after miracle after miracle after miracle, it didn't make believers out of them. "Well, if I could just see God work a miracle, I'd believe." Not likely. Not likely. "Well, you know, if the Lord were to appear right here and if I could see him..." Well, they saw him. "Well, if I could just hear his voice." They heard his voice for 3 ½ years. They didn't believe it. I'm going to tell you why before we're through this introduction. Stay with me.

Alright, so verse 12, "Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which," look, wondering himself at that which, "was come to pass." Peter gets to the tomb. The stone is rolled away. He goes in the tomb. Jesus isn't there and Peter, "I wonder what happened?" Come on, is that not incredible? When you just stop and think about that, that's amazing. How many times did Jesus say with Peter standing right there and nodding his head, "I'm going to go to Jerusalem and I'm going to be betrayed." "Yeah." "And I'm going to die on a cross." "Yeah." "And I'm going to rise from the dead." You know, if he believed that, what's the whole sword thing about? If he believed that, what's the whole denial around the campfire about? He doesn't get it. None of them got it. "Well, you know, in the Old Testament, they looked forward to the cross and since Calvary we look back to the cross." Yeah, it's a nice fairytale, trouble is, you just can't find anybody looking forward to the cross. On resurrection morning, they're not even looking back at the cross. Nobody knows what's going on.

Now I'm going to tell you something: we're Baptists so we love the Father and we love the Son and we're scared of the Holy Ghost because he's Pentecostal. In fact, you're not even supposed to say Holy Ghost, you're supposed to say Holy Spirit because that's Baptist. You kind of slip that into a Baptist church but if you say Holy Ghost and if you run them together, you might be charismatic but, you know, the Holy Ghost. But do you realize tonight if it wasn't for the Holy Spirit, how clueless would you be? Come on, Jesus is with them 3 ½ years, you've never seen him. And if in 3 ½ years of Jesus with them they didn't get it, the only reason you got it is the Holy Spirit of God opened your eyes and opened your heart and said, "Take a look at that. What are you going to do about it?" So thank God for the Holy Spirit in a Baptist church.

Now, I want to take a little scenic turnout here. They had a couple in Pennsylvania, I was driving up here, that said "Scenic Turnout." I'm all for saving the environment and all that but if I'm going to turnout on a scenic turnout, cut the trees down so I can see. There's a million of them out there. You can spare a few so I can see the rest of it. Anyway, so here's a little scenic turnout. The Bible is a funny book. I think it's funny. Maybe you don't have any sense of humor. I think I have one, but I find some funny things and this is funny. The legend that was passed down from that day to this is that the disciples came and stole the body, right? They paid soldiers to steal the body.

Okay, look at verse 12, "Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed." Okay, so watch this. This is what you're supposed to believe: these disciples come in the middle of the night and there are soldiers, trained military men guarding the tomb; the disciples sneak past them unnoticed and undetected. As the soldiers stand guard three feet away, they roll the stone away without rock on rock making a sound, the soldiers never move. They sneak into the tomb. John and James pick up the body and Peter says, "Wait, let's take the clothes off." "Take the clothes off?" "We'll undress it. We'll leave the clothes here. It'll blow their minds." First of all, why would you take the clothes off? Is it going to be easier to carry the Lord's body if it's undressed? It makes no sense at all. Those grave clothes lying there in that tomb are proof positive nobody stole the body. No one is going to break into a tomb and steal the body and take time to undress it and fold up the grave clothes and leave them laying there. But there they are. That Bible is some book, isn't it? The Lord anticipated every objection to what he did and he countered it before it was ever raised. They didn't steal that body.

Alright, so we've got to get through this introduction here. Verse 13, "And, behold, two of them," so two of those who heard the report from the women, from the angels, from Peter and John, "The tomb is empty. The Lord is gone. He's not there." Two of them, "went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened." So here's two disciples of Jesus in fellowship together talking about the crucifixion and the empty tomb on the morning of the Lord's resurrection. What could be any better than that? Well, look, "And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." Well, now it's as good as it gets. Christ has died. He's been buried. He's risen from the dead. These two disciples are in fellowship, they're talking about the Lord, they're talking about what he's done and now where those two are gathered together, the Lord himself is in the midst. It couldn't get any better than that.

Yeah, but verse 16, "But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?" Now get those words: and are sad. The Lord Jesus Christ has come to this earth in a body of flesh and he has died upon the cross to pay for the sins of the world. He is risen from the dead, having conquered sin, death, hell and the grave. Two men are fellowshiping together and the risen Christ is walking with them on the very morning of his resurrection and it is possible for the human heart in those conditions

to be sad. That's pretty amazing. So do you know what that means? That means you can come to a church that sings great songs and has beautiful music and you can come to a church that believes the right Bible and preaches sound doctrine and you can be saved and your wife can be saved and your children can be saved and you can sit there as depressed as you've ever been. You can sit there and you find no joy in it, find no rejoicing in it, find no happiness in it and don't you dare say I don't believe it because you've done it. There is not a one of us that hasn't been in the midst of a great church service and the whole thing just passes us right by. Come on. People weeping, shouting, crying, going to the altar, waving their hands, "Sing another verse, preacher." It's not criticism, it's reality. I'm going to show you why they were sad on such a great day and I'm going to show you why you're sad on great Sundays, great midweek services, great Bible conferences, great music programs. You can miss the whole thing and I'll show you why because we all do it.

The Bible says this in verse 18, "And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem?" Well, sort of. "And hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things?" You know, I remember the Lord asked a question in the Bible, if God ever asks you a question, best thing for you to do is say what that prophet said back in the Old Testament, "O Lord God, thou knowest." That's the right answer. So maybe Jesus asked him because, "I must have missed something here because I just conquered death and you guys are sad. I just kicked the serpent in the head and you guys have got pouchy lips on. I just made it possible for you to go straight into the presence of God without hanging out in paradise for centuries waiting for me to shed my blood. What are you so sad about? Did I miss something here?"

"And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him." Now watch these words, "But we trusted." Past tense. On the morning of his resurrection, they are not trusting. On the night after they laid him in the tomb, they weren't trusting. Now watch, you've got to get the Bible. "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished," astonished, really? Why were you astonished? He said he was going to do it. "Which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not." Okay, do you want to know why they were sad? It's the same reason you get depressed. It's the same reason you get discouraged. It's the same reason you're tempted to quit. It's the same reason many have quit. Do you know what happened? They had a plan for Jesus and he didn't carry it out. They expected the Lord to do something they wanted him to do and instead he did what he said he was going to do and they were unhappy because he didn't do what they wanted, instead he did what they needed.

Come on now, if you'll get this, we'll be through quick. It doesn't take long to get this but do you know something? When I got saved, I had a bunch of guys and girls, they used to call them guys and girls, now they're all guys. I don't know what this, equality or what it is. Anyway, I had this crowd and if I said, "Let's go do something Saturday night," everybody went and did it. If I said, "Let's go try this," they'd all try it. If I said, "Come on, let's go over..." they'd all go. So I thought, you see, I thought when I got saved all my friends were going to get saved and when one by one by one by one they cast me out and dismissed me from their presence, I was unhappy with God. I was. I was discouraged. I was confused because he didn't do what I thought he was going to do. He never said all my friends were going to get saved, I just thought they were and when God didn't do what I expected him to do, I'm all confused. I found a verse in the Bible, it's in Acts 16, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." So all my brothers are going to get saved, my sisters are going to get saved, dad's going to fall in love with Jesus, all the cousins and aunts and uncles. Man, the family reunion is going to be a prayer meeting. And that didn't happen and it still hasn't happened.

I was confused. I was disappointed. I was sad because God didn't do what I thought he was going to do. Do you know what I found out later? I've got about 40 cross references for "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," there isn't one cross reference for "and thou house." Everybody in the Philippian jailor's house got saved because if you read the rest of the chapter every one of them believed the Gospel when they heard it. Some of your kinfolk didn't believe the Gospel when they heard it and they didn't get saved, but you read a tract and you heard a sermon and you got a John R. Rice pamphlet and, I mean, all you've got to do is go to the grocery store and smile and ten people are going to pray the sinner's prayer. I'm not being critical. I was discouraged. I'd go to the revival meetings and see all these people walk the aisle and then the Lord gave me a chance to preach and they walked the aisle that way. He didn't do what I thought he was going to do.

Do you know something? When you got saved, when you got saved, you had no idea that loved one was going to die. That shook you because you didn't think God would let that happen to you. But that was your thinking, it wasn't his word. When that spouse was unfaithful, you almost turned against God because how could God do.... God didn't do that. A wicked man did that; a wicked woman did that. God didn't do that. I had no idea as a pastor I'd be going to court with people, saved people, being ruined by saved people before a court of law. "Well, don't you know what Corinthians says?" Neither one of them cares. Sad and discouraged. God didn't do what I thought he was going to do.

Do you know what your problem is, brother? Do you know what your problem is, sister? We hold this book in our laps and we nod while the preacher preaches it but we never really take the time to find out what it actually says. We just hope if we carry it, God's going to make everything go our way. We just hope we get a good church and stay in a good church. All that stuff about weeping may endure for a night, I'll never weep. All that stuff about a man's foes should be they of his own household, well, that, you know, that must have some dispensational connotations. Listen, man, this Bible talks about tribulation and heartache and burdens and trials and troubles and longing for the Lord's

return and perils of this and perils of that and perils of the other thing. Do you know why we get confused by God and mad at God and sad when we're trying to follow him? Because we don't believe it. He has not done many things I thought he was going to do but he's done everything he's said he would do, it just didn't go the way I expected. How about you? Come on, you've been saved 20 years, if God had showed you the night you got saved what was down the road for 20 years, you'd have never started. You have to live by faith. You can't walk by sight. Man, if you saw what was down that road, you'd never take it. Amen.

Alright, so the Lord, you know, he's a comforter. Aren't you glad? He's compassionate, kind, loving, merciful, right? So he's walking with these two guys and they're sad, and he's walking with these two guys and they're confused and so the Lord is so gracious, he turns to them in verse 25, "Then he said unto them, O fools." What a way to cheer people up. "Well, you know, we're just so sad today." "Why are you so sad?" "Well, you know, we thought the Lord was going to set up a kingdom." He said, "Well, that's pretty stupid of you."

Okay, now, this little scenic turnout, some of you are not going to like this one so much. "Well, bless God, I believe the Bible." Maybe believe the Scofield notes and Larkin's charts more than you believe the Bible. Now, wait a minute, do you know that thing everybody before the cross looked forward to? Everybody before Calvary looked forward to the cross and everybody since Calvary looked...okay, how about this one: the Lord came to the earth to set up a kingdom and when the Jews rejected him, then he decided to start the church. Okay, they said, verse 21, "we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel," and he said, "You're fools." Now, how could he call them fools for looking for a kingdom if his purpose was to set up a kingdom? They thought he was going to set up a kingdom, they wanted him to set up a kingdom, but every prophecy said he came to be crucified and pay for our sins so why do we teach what Jesus told them was faulty thinking? The church isn't a fall back position because Plan A failed and we've got to go to Plan B. "I don't know if I agree with that." Well, that's fine. You don't have to agree with everything I say but read the Bible. "Where's he from? Is he in with that crowd?" I've never found a crowd that would have me. I'm just telling you they're looking for a kingdom and they missed the resurrection and the Lord said, "You were fools because I told you over and over and over again what I came to do. I came to die for the sins of the world and rise again."

John the Baptist was a forerunner, right? We'll get back here in a second. We need the rest area. Stretch your legs. John the Baptist was a forerunner, right? Of the Messiah, correct? And when he sees Jesus coming down to the Jordan he says, "Behold, the King of Israel." That's not what he said. He said, "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." Now if the forerunner is looking and preparing and announcing, don't you think the announcement would be in line with the program? Well, the announcement is, "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." That's what he came to do, but the disciples didn't get that. They wanted, you know, Rome kicked out and, "We're going to rule, you know, and I'm going to be the greatest. No, you're going to be the greatest. Well, John, get mommy over her and make mommy

tell Jesus to give us the big thrones." I'm going to give a throne in my kingdom to somebody that has to have mommy come and speak on their behalf? I'm telling you, that Bible, you ought to read that Bible sometime. Don't just wait for Brother Joe or Brother Jay to tell you what's in it. Read it. It's a fascinating book. "Lord, may I speak to you a minute?" "Yes, how can I help you?" "Well, my boys, I just think they are the best disciples you've got and I think they should sit on the throne." James and John are standing back there hoping the other disciples don't see it.

Alright, so he said, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" Nothing about a throne. Nothing about a kingdom. Nothing about Israel. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him." Here's what I've always wondered: did he just allow them to see him for who he was or did he hold out bread and when they took the bread from his hand, there's the wounds from the nails? "It's him. It's him." And he's gone, vanished out of sight.

Do you know every time they saw him they didn't recognize him? There are different theories on that. This is just my opinion, I just made this up. It's not true. You don't have to believe it but I just think the Lord showed himself differently every time he appeared to them so they could never paint his picture or make a statue and turn the resurrected Christ into a graven image. He didn't tell you what he looked like because if he did, do you know what people would do? They'd worship his appearance, not him. Okay, anyway. We've got to wrap this up here.

The Bible says, "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." Okay, these men, they followed Jesus for 3 ½ years. How long have you followed him? These men saw miracle after miracle after miracle, I've never seen a one. These men were present when he was arrested, they were present when he was tried, they were present when they nailed him on a cross, they were present on the morning of his resurrection, some of them walked into the tomb, and they're sad. And they're sad because for all that, they didn't believe what he said. They believed what they hoped. They believed what they wanted. They believed what they desired. Are you with me? And do you know what turned them from sadness to joy? It wasn't the presence of the Lord. He's walking with them, he's present. When he opened unto them the Scriptures and they finally believed what the Scriptures said about Jesus, then and only then were their hearts filled with joy.

We work in the public schools of boys and girls, some of your work in the prisons in rescue missions and here's the trouble we have, we have it with adults, they come to the altar at our church to close the service and here's what happens to these boys and girls: we'll give a Bible lesson and we say we're going to sing some songs, if any of you want to get saved, we've got some counselors that will meet you in the side room over here and the little girls and boys will come to the side room and my wife or one of the other workers will say, "Now, do you want Jesus to be your Savior? Why are you here today? Why are you here today?" And the little boy will say with tears in his eyes, "If I ask Jesus to be my Savior, will my daddy come home? If I ask Jesus to be my Savior, will mommy get out of jail? If I ask Jesus to be my Savior, will we have food at our house because daddy drinks and we don't have any food to eat?" And who can blame those kids for wanting that? But do you know something? That little boy gets saved and it isn't going to get mom out of jail and it's not going to make daddy quit drinking and it's not going to put food in the pantry. He wants Jesus to do something for him and who can blame him? You're out preaching on the street and handing out Gospel tracts and somebody comes up and says, "Have you got \$30 for me? I'm hungry." "Sir, I've got the Gospel." He doesn't want the Gospel. He wants a Jesus that's going to give him a house. He wants a Jesus that's going to give him food and clean clothes and who can blame him? If you were living where he is, that's what you'd want. But do you know what we do? We're saved, we're going to heaven, we believed the Gospel once upon a time, but we want Jesus to fix this and we want Jesus to fix that, we want Jesus to right that wrong, and we want Jesus to straighten out that person and do you know what? He's not going to do it because the people that are hurting you have the same free will that you've got and God's not going to override their free will to make you happy.

Man, when I first got saved I'd go to these camp meetings and you couldn't get through a four day camp meeting without a sermon on Korah. "Bless God, you rebel against a man of God, God is going to open up the earth and swallow you straight into hell!" Guys that tear our church up get raises on their job and their kids get cars and they never get sick. I don't see any of that stuff happen. We've never had to take a shovel and fill in one little tiny hole in the ground that God opened up when somebody hurt our church. "I pray the Lord he'd see what they're doing. Lord, you've got to stop them. Take ten families with them if you don't stop them." And he doesn't stop them, he doesn't even lift a finger. "I thought he would. God, I'm preaching the truth. God, I'm doing right. God, I'm serving you." That's what they're saying to God about me. He can't answer your prayers to stop them, he's trying to not answer their prayers to stop you. So I get all sad and I get all confused because I thought, you see, because I expected, because I believed. Do you know what Jesus said? "Hey, psst, hey, back over here. Let me show you what I said. Let me show you what I said. One day, one day in your glorified body in a land that is fairer than day, I'll wipe away all tears from your eyes." Something to look forward to. There will be no sickness. There will be no sorrow. There will be no pain. There will be no death. Former things shall not come into mind. Isn't that something to look forward to?

Now in the meantime, quit whining. O fools. I'm not trying to be mean. I'm not. I'm telling you on the morning of the Lord's resurrection his disciples were sad. The greatest day in the history of the world passed them right by because God didn't do what they

expected him to do. And what we need to do is we need to bring our hopes and dreams to the altar and just repent of them and get in that Bible and find out how God said real life was going to be.

I sit in an office and we go through all this premarital counseling and then two years later I sit in the office and say, "I told you he was going to do that. I told you she was going to do that. You weren't listening." "Well, love." Well, you can call it what you want. Do you know what her problem is? She thought. Do you know what his problem is? He thought. Neither one of them are paying any attention to what the Bible said. "Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them." I wonder why that's in there? You think God just needs to fill the page? Or you think maybe you were going to tend to be bitter when she didn't turn out to be what you dreamed? Not that that would apply to anybody here. A little softer on the right there, Brother Jay. There's a whole half a chapter in 1 Peter, ladies, about what to do when your husband won't obey the word of God and you're surprised that your husband doesn't do everything according to the Bible.

Hey, it's a real world. God gave you a real book to live by the book, not to get angry at God or disappointed with God and confused by God when what I thought was going to happen doesn't happen. Wouldn't you think if somebody gives up their life to go to the mission field God would make everything go great for them? Wouldn't you think the guy coming out of the bar would be the guy that would get all the sickness and the disease and all that? Well, that's what we'd think but you read the Bible and where would you get an idea like that from the Bible?

So what we need to do, look at verse 21, "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel." Verse 27, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Verse 32, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" The way to get over your sadness and your depression and your confusion is go to the Bible and make sure that what's happening to you is what God said you could expect in this life, and if it is, lean on the Lord, rejoice in the Lord, trust in the Lord, he'll get you through it but don't turn your back on God because he didn't meet your expectations. That's the trouble with all this tv preaching, all this charismatic stuff, man, they present a God that you never get sick and God is going to make you rich and all that and when it doesn't happen, they're not mad at the tv preacher, they're mad at God. Have you ever been sad in a good church service? Have you ever been down-in-the-dumps when everything is going great? Find out where your expectations were false and get in line with this book. Amen.

Alright, let's pray.

Father, help us. We want you to do things and we ask you to do things.