


PROVERBS 13:12

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”



I. Seeing Jesus is a gift of God.

LUKE 24:15-16

LUKE 24:15-16

“While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”

TOM SCHREINER

“Their failure to recognize him is not because his appearance or body has changed dramatically after his resurrection; instead, God has prevented their recognizing him.”

DEUTERONOMY
31:18

“But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods.”

LUKE 16:31

“He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Psalm 13:1

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?

Psalm 102:2

Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress;
Incline Your ear to me;
In the day when I call answer me quickly.

Seeing Jesus is a gift of God's grace.

Not seeing Jesus is also a gift of God if it
teaches us that Jesus Himself is the Gift for
which we long.



II. Seeing Jesus
requires a deep
change of heart not
just a change of eyes.

LUKE 24:25

LUKE 24:25-26

“And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **Was it not necessary** that Christ should suffer these things and enter glory?’”

WILLIAM HENDRICKSEN

“These men missed the joy of salvation because they failed to pay enough attention to, and to believe, the word of prophecy in its entirety. Those who neglect the study of God’s Word, do not realize how much they miss. No wonder they look glum.”

CHRIS BRUNO

“After Jesus’s crucifixion, his followers failed to understand their place in the ongoing story of the Bible, and it wrecked them. They were sad and confused because they were foolish and slow of heart to understand the story and their place in it. In the same way, to the extent that we do not understand the story of the Bible and our place in it, we will fail to be faithful to the mission that God has entrusted to his people.

One of the consequences of sin and unbelief is the inability to see Christ in the story of our lives.

We become blind to the very clear presence of God when we expect God to bless the story we want written rather than when we embrace the story that God is writing for His glory and our good.

Question: Whose story do you want written on your life - Jesus' story or yours?

Do I really believe that God's main mission is to bring sinners like myself to Himself through the gospel?

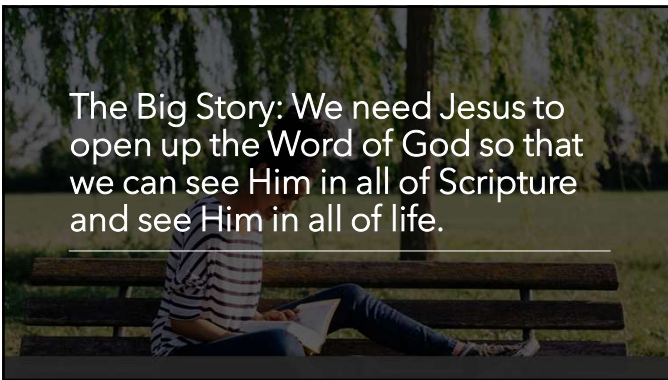
Do I really believe that God works his unfathomable purposes through circumstances that often look like complete failure and brokenness?

Am I unwilling to see Jesus at work in my everyday life because I have superimposed on God what I expected Him to do in our lives?

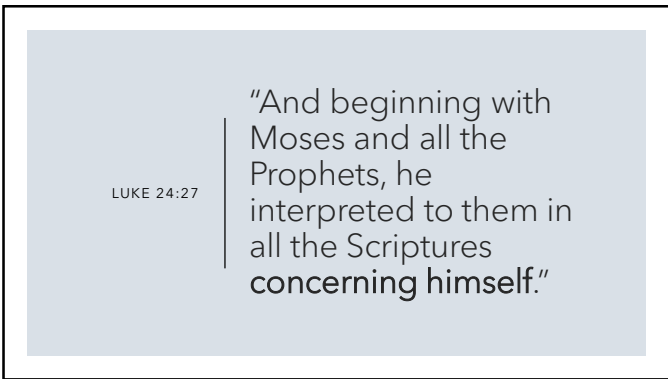


III. We need Jesus to help us see the main story is His story and only His story can rescue our story.

LUKE 24:25



The Big Story: We need Jesus to open up the Word of God so that we can see Him in all of Scripture and see Him in all of life.



LUKE 24:27

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

JOHN 12:21-26

“Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’

LUKE 24:27

“And Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.’”

Jesus and the story of the redemption of creation and the redemption of humanity is the grand narrative of the Bible.

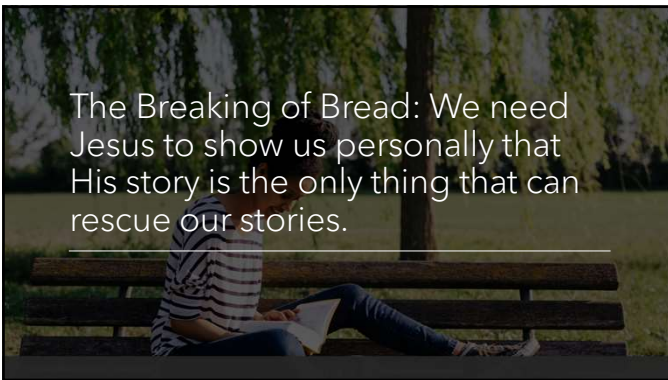
Jesus and his mission is the key to the story of the Bible and the story of our lives.

WILLIAM COWPER

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
 But trust Him for His grace;
 Behind a frowning providence
 He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
 Unfolding every hour:
 The bud may have a bitter taste,
 But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
 And scan His work in vain;
 God is His own Interpreter,
 And He will make it plain.



LUKE 24:30,31

"When he was at table with them, he took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Until we see that His story was for us personally, we will never find joy or hope in the shadows of our stories.

"This is my body given for you"

Jesus did whatever it took to rescue us.
He will do whatever it takes to make us His, to make us holy, and to bring us home.

Will you surrender your
story to His story?

Will you embrace His
brokenness for you so
that you can embrace a
life of brokenness for
others?
