

“Unaware of God’s Presence”

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Introduction: We all have feelings. Sometimes our feelings are good feelings and sometimes our feelings are bad feelings. If you get a good medical report, you will have a good feeling. If you get a bad medical report, you will have a bad feeling. There is no feeling as bad as being unaware of God’s presence even though He is present. God tells us in the Bible that He is always with us (Deut. 31:1-8; Matthew 28:20), but sometimes all of us have no awareness of God’s presence.

Illustration: Sometimes I have the feeling that God is not present with me. It is a bad feeling. Thankfully the Bible is filled with people who were unaware of God’s presence.

1. Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4).
2. Jacob in an all-night wrestling match (Genesis 32:24).
3. Joshua saw a man standing with his sword drawn and thought he was a warrior (Joshua 5:13).
4. Saul on the road to Damascus saw a bright light surrounding him and then realized it was the very presence of God (Acts 9:3-4).

What makes us unaware of God’s presence? The answer: the devil. The devil does things to keep us from being aware of God’s presence. This is why the Bible says, “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour... (1 Peter 5:9, NLT).

To make us unaware of God’s presence is one of Satan’s schemes to devour us that we need to guard against. We see it in our Scripture today.

Text: Luke 24:13-35

- 1. We need to guard against sadness. (Luke 24:17)**

- The Bible says the two men on the road to Emmaus were sad (24:17).
- They had heard the message of Christ's resurrection, but now their hearts were broken.
- Sad people will not be aware of God's presence because their focus is on whatever it is that has made them sad.
- Satan knows this and uses sadness to keep us from being aware of God's presence.

Application: Most of us from time to time are sad about some things. Life is not all peaches and cream. During those sad times, unless you are on guard, you will not feel the presence of God.

Illustration: My experience is that the more I am directly involved in God's work the more things that seem to come that make me sad.

Application: In your sadness, if you focus on God's presence things will seem different because things will be different.

2. We need to guard against disappointment. (Luke 24:21)

- The Bible says the two men of the Emmaus Road were hoping (24:21).
- When Jesus was crucified, their hope turned into disappointment.
- When Jesus died, their hope died.
- Their disappointment led to sadness. Disappointment and sadness are like cousins.

Application: There is a difference between being disappointed and living in disappointment.

- There are going to be disappointments in life.
- Walking from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus told His disciples, “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows...” (John 16:33; NLT).

Application: In your disappointments, if you focus on God’s presence things will seem different because things will be different.

Illustration: On Wednesday before Easter, Dottie and I were dealing with a disappointment. About mid-afternoon we came to the prayer room at church and we both prayed. We left the prayer room with an awareness of God’s presence.

3. We need to guard against disregarding Scripture. (Luke 24:25-27)

- Luke 24:25-27
- The specifics of what Jesus said about Moses’s writings and all the prophets is not recorded (Luke 24:27).
 1. Jesus may have mentioned Abraham offering his son Issac, but God sparing Issaac yet not sparing His own son (Gnesis 22).
 2. Jesus may have explained how the Passover was a preview of how He would become the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
 3. Jesus may have pointed out the main prophetic passages that spoke of the crucifixion.

The two men on the Emmaus Road, like all Jews, knew the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus was helping them connect what they knew from the Old Testament to what had happened.

Jesus explaining the Scriptures was sown seed to the two men. It prepared them for what they would experience next.

Application: This is why reading and studying the Word of God daily is so important. It prepares us for what is coming.

- There is power in God's Word. The Bible says, "For the Word is living and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12).
- The two men's hearts burned within them (Luke 24:32).
- The "dot's" connected (Luke 24:30,35).
- The Scriptures Jesus explained prepared them to receive what they would later experience and see.

Application: Reading the Bible not only prepares us for what is ahead, but sometimes reminds us of God's help in the past.

Conclusion: What can you do each day to live with the awareness of God's presence?

- **Do each day in this life what you will do in eternity.**
- In eternity you will praise God, adore God, worship God, and sing God's praises.
- In eternity, you will be where God is. Until you get where God is, get God where you are and do in this life what you will be doing in heaven!