

Devotional

Going Down the Road Feeling Bad

April 19, 2020

Our passage this week is Luke 24:13-27. The story continues a bit further and if you want to read ahead you are very much encouraged to do so. As I was preparing our message this week, I was struck by v. 27 and thought that it would be wise to stop and rest there for a week. It might seem odd to get excited about the resurrection of Jesus and then immediately go back to the Old Testament, and maybe it is odd, but I think we do each other a disservice when we don't include the whole counsel of God in our preaching and teaching. Paul says in Romans 15:4 that "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope." He is speaking of the Old Testament!

Our faith is so rich and so beautiful that it is a travesty when we collapse it to just a few favorite verses or a few key beliefs we can stick on a checklist. My hope is that this week exploring some key Old Testament passages will perhaps fan a little spark in you for the love of all God's Word and a willingness to read any and every passage of Scripture. After all, 75% of our Bible is the Old Testament and it's a shame to ignore it. The Bible is the story of redemption history and just like it is not as meaningful to skip to the climactic end of a book or movie, salvation doesn't make as much sense when you just skip to resurrection.

Monday

Read Genesis 17

God makes a covenant with Abram/Abraham. A covenant is essentially a treaty agreement or a contract. God makes a series of covenants with Abraham that make up the whole covenant, but the covenant narrative we see in Genesis 17 is perhaps the most recognizable. God promises to make Abraham a great nation and bless Abraham in Genesis 12, promises to give Abraham's descendants certain land in Genesis 15, and now makes this covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17 with Abraham needing to circumcise the males as a sign of faithfulness to God.

Why do you think it is important that God makes agreements with people? Does God always keep his promises or does God break promises? What promises has God made to you?

Tuesday

Read Exodus 19 and 20

This is part of the scene at Mount Sinai and the giving of the Ten Commandments. God begins by reminding them of who He is and what He has done for them and who they will be as a result. God has rescued the people and has chosen them for his prized possession. The Apostle Paul will return to the theme again and again in his letters that in Jesus Christ we are made part of this precious people of God.

And then the Lord gives the Ten Commandments. Our God is a lawgiver. God does not operate by wildly changing dictates and whims but by agreements and laws. The Ten Commandments have had a major impact on the development of Western Civilization and they came from a mountain far away. What do you think of when you think of the Ten Commandments? What about the Ten Commandments needs to be redeemed?

Wednesday

Read 2 Samuel 7

It is rather impossible to try to give a few passages as indicative of the whole Old Testament, so we are sticking with the theme of covenant. 2 Samuel 7 contains the royal covenant made with David. We see that it promises to establish his dynasty forever and promises a Messiah. This is a key chapter in salvation history and links to the birth narrative of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

Thursday

Read the Book of Jonah... it's not that long!

And when you have read it you can say you read a whole book of the Bible this week! Jonah is a good prophet to read because at least part of his story is familiar to us. But as you read it this time, what new things did you learn about Jonah? How does he relate to your life and what can you learn from him?

Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The most famous passage points to Jesus, our Savior. Feast on its words!