

# WE HAD HOPED...

*April 13, 2025*

## SCRIPTURE

[Luke 24:13–35](#); [Romans 8:24–28](#); [Lamentations 3:21–24](#)

## KEY POINTS

- After Jesus' death, His disciples were devastated—paralyzed by sorrow and unmet expectations.
- Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we often walk away from hope without realizing that Jesus is walking with us.
- The disciples hoped for a political savior—not a suffering servant.
- Jesus often doesn't meet expectations but exceeds them by meeting our deepest need.
- True hope is not in a situation, a miracle, or a dream fulfilled, but in the unchanging character of God.
- We must learn to hope in what we cannot yet see.
- Jesus didn't fix their circumstances—He walked with them, listened, and taught them the Scriptures.
- He led them back to the truth of the prophets, reminding them it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer.
- When Jesus is our hope, we no longer walk away—we return to Jerusalem or the place of peace.

## DISCUSSION

- Think of a time in your life when something didn't go the way you expected—what did that moment reveal about where your hope was rooted?
- Have you ever emotionally or spiritually distanced yourself from God after disappointment or loss? What helped you return—or what's keeping you from returning now?
- Can you recall a moment when Jesus was walking with you, but you didn't recognize Him at the time? What changed when you realized He had been with you the whole time?
- Where do you go when you're grieving or confused? Do you run to distractions, isolation, people, or God? How can you begin to invite Jesus into that space more intentionally?
- Is your hope in Jesus—or in something you want Him to do? What would it look like for you to shift your hope from a specific outcome to Jesus Himself?

## APPLICATION

- Name your disappointment to God instead of pretending it doesn't hurt. Honest confession is the first step toward healing and restored hope.
- Stay in Scripture, especially when your emotions feel louder than truth. God's Word grounds you when everything else feels uncertain.
- Talk to Jesus, even if you don't feel His presence. He's walking with you, even when you can't see Him.
- Choose community when you feel like isolating. Go back to "Jerusalem"—the place where God's people are gathered.
- Shift your hope from outcomes to the One who holds your future. Let Jesus be enough, even when nothing else makes sense.