



Six and a Half Billion “Hopers”

Luke 24:13-27

Listen! As a senior in high school we played our cross-town rivals for the right to go to the state basketball tournament... The next day I was hoping...

As of April 1, 2007 the estimated population of the world is: 6,585,860,345.

All six and a half billion of us are “hopers.” If we lived in a perfect world we would not be hoping for anything—all that we needed would be provided.

Why are we talking about this? There is a story in the Bible about hoping that is very important because it is a story that is actually an archetype of all of our lives and hoping.

The archetypal story of two men on the road to Emmaus—the story of two hopers:

- They were hoping:
- Their hopes were dashed:
- They cannot make sense of the situation:
- Sadness sets in:
- Jesus enters and He makes sense of the situation:
 - Explanation:
 - Truth: He is indeed alive again.
 - Perspective: the greatest defeat is actually the greatest victory. V 26
 - Recalibration: their hopes had already come true—they just did not know it yet—Jesus had indeed redeemed Israel.
- Jesus offers the chance to accept the truth and to move from hope to faith.
 - Hope is:
 - Faith is:
 - Faith is based on:
- Their hopes were more than restored and their sadness was turned to joy:
- These rejoicing hopers joined other rejoicing hopers and the joy escalated:

The Central Idea: In an imperfect world hoping in Jesus makes sense—because He shows up and makes sense of the imperfect world.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

The Central Idea: In an imperfect world hoping in Jesus makes sense—because He shows up and makes sense of the imperfect world.

Following Christ is a daily deal:

- **Today:** Make a list of your major hopes at the present time.
- **Monday:** In what way are your hopes dashed? In what ways does your current situation not make sense?
- **Tuesday:** How do you need Jesus to show and give you truth and recalibration and insight and perspective? What are some other possible explanations of your current reality—that is, possible explanations other than “God has abandoned me and does not love me.”?
- **Wednesday:** What do you think about the fact that the two men on the road to Emmaus were in a period of time when their hopes were dashed and their sadness was deep and yet their hopes had already been fulfilled?
- **Thursday:** Is your relationship to Jesus, at this present time, more one of hoping or of solid faith?
- **Friday:** What would need to happen for your sadness to turn to joy?
- **Saturday:** Have you ever experienced the great joy of a community when sadness has been turned to joy? Are there any applications of this to your life right now?
- **Bonus Thoughts:** What part do you think you have in helping to turn dashed dreams to fulfilled dreams in your own life? What part do you think you have in turning lost hopes to joy in the lives of others?