

PULPIT COMPANION

THE SILENCE
BETWEEN THE
CROSS AND THE
CROWN

LUKE 24:13-35

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09:45 AM

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In this powerful message, we're reminded that God often works in the silence between our struggles and our victories.

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) teaches us that sometimes we walk alongside Jesus without recognizing Him. This blindness can stem from our disappointment, grief, or preconceived notions. Yet, God invites us to open our spiritual eyes and see His presence in our lives. T

he sermon challenges us to move through silence, understanding it not as God's absence, but as a sacred space where He's preparing us for breakthrough. Just as the disciples' eyes were opened in the breaking of bread, we too can experience revelation in ordinary moments if our hearts are willing.

This message encourages us to trust in God's process, even when we can't see the full picture, reminding us that our current silence may be the setup for our future resurrection.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Luke 24:13-35
- Mark 8:22-26
- Ephesians 3:20-21
- Acts 13:41
- 2 Kings 6 (alluded to, not specific verse)
- Proverbs 3:5-8





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Seeing God in the Silence

Reading: Psalm 46:1-11

Devotional: In the noise of our daily lives, it's easy to miss God's presence. Today's passage reminds us that even in chaos, God is our refuge. The pastor spoke about the silence between the cross and the crown - a time when hope seemed lost, but God was still at work.

Reflect on the times in your life when God seemed silent. How might He have been working behind the scenes? Practice being still today, intentionally creating moments of silence to listen for God's voice. Remember, silence isn't absence - it's often where God is doing His deepest work in us.

Day 2: Opening Spiritual Eyes

Reading: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Devotional: Sometimes, like Elisha's servant, we can only see the problems surrounding us. But God invites us to see with spiritual eyes. The sermon mentioned how partial vision is an invitation for a second touch from God.

What areas of your life do you need God to touch again? Ask Him to open your eyes to His provision, protection, and presence that may be hidden from your natural sight. Consider writing down moments where you've seen God work in unexpected ways as a reminder of His faithfulness.

Day 3: Breaking Bread, Breaking Blindness

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Devotional: The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. Sometimes our spiritual blindness is lifted in ordinary moments.

Reflect on the "bread-breaking" moments in your life - times of fellowship, communion, or sharing that suddenly revealed God's presence. How might you create space for such moments in your daily routine? Consider inviting someone to share a meal with you this week, being attentive to how God might reveal Himself in that simple act of community.





Day 4: Trusting the Process

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-8

Devotional: The pastor emphasized trusting God's process, even when we can't see the full picture. Like the Chinese bamboo tree that grows underground for years before sprouting, God often works in unseen ways.

What areas of your life feel dormant or delayed? How can you choose to trust God's timing? Practice surrendering your timeline to God today, affirming that His understanding far surpasses your own. Consider journaling about a time when God's timing proved better than your own plans.

Day 5: From Survival to Revival

Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Devotional: We serve a God who can do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." Yet often, we settle for spiritual survival mode instead of expecting revival. The sermon challenged us to take off limitations, false timelines, and offenses that blind us to God's power.

What "survival mentality" do you need to shed? Pray through today's passage, asking God to expand your vision of what He can do in and through you. Write down a bold prayer, believing that God is able to do far beyond what you can conceive.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: “The Silence Between the Cross and the Crown”

Opening Prayer:

Key Takeaways:

1. Silence isn't absence - it's often where God is doing unseen work in our lives.
2. Partial vision is not the end, but an invitation for deeper spiritual sight.
3. Breaking bread (communion with God and others) can remove what blinds us spiritually.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor talked about being "stuck" not because of external forces, but because we stop believing we can move forward. Have you ever experienced this? How did you overcome it?
2. Reflect on the Chinese bamboo seed analogy. How does this relate to times of silence or waiting in your own spiritual journey?
3. The sermon mentioned several biblical characters who had their spiritual eyes opened (Elijah's servant, Balaam, Hagar). Which of these stories resonates most with you and why?
4. How do you typically respond to periods of silence or perceived inactivity in your relationship with God? What did this sermon challenge you to reconsider?
5. The pastor said, "Partial sight isn't failure, it's an invitation for a second touch." How can we cultivate patience and trust in God's process of gradually opening our spiritual eyes?
6. Discuss the concept of "survival systems" that we create when disappointed. How might these systems be hindering your spiritual growth or vision?





Practical Applications:

1. Practice Intentional Silence: Set aside 10-15 minutes each day this week for silent prayer, focusing on being present with God and asking Him to open your spiritual eyes.
2. Breaking Bread Exercise: Share a meal with someone this week, intentionally using it as a time to practice spiritual awareness and connection.
3. Vision Journal: Start a journal where you record moments of spiritual insight or "partial vision." Reflect on how God might be gradually increasing your spiritual sight.
4. Identify Blinders: Prayerfully consider what might be blinding you spiritually (disappointment, fear, control, etc.). Share with the group and pray for each other in these areas.
5. Second Touch Prayer: Each day, pray for a "second touch" from God in an area where you feel your spiritual vision is partial or unclear.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, open the eyes of our hearts. Help us to recognize You even when You come in unexpected ways. Give us patience in the silence and faith to believe You are always working. Touch our eyes again and break whatever needs to be broken in us. Amen.

