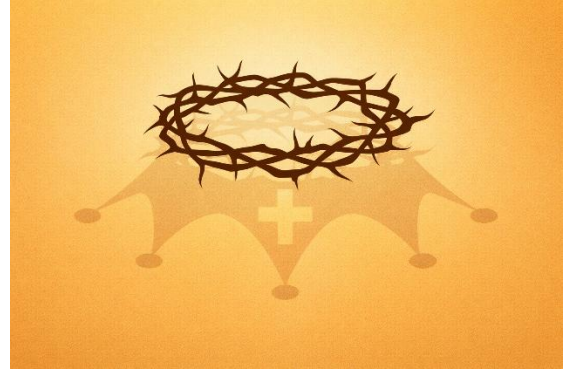


“Thorns to Throne: An Easter Bible Study”

Luke 24: 1-35

We are pausing our Hebrews study for a special Easter Bible Study.



INTRO

Read It:

Happy Easter Week! We've been studying in Hebrews how Jesus is the better sacrifice and the "living way." Today, we look at the moment that "living way" actually opened. We often treat the resurrection like a happy ending to a sad movie, but for the first witnesses, it was confusing, terrifying, and hard to believe. Today, we're going to walk from the empty tomb to a dusty road to see how Jesus turns our thorns into a throne.

SECTION 1 – Empty Tomb

Read It: Luke 24:1-12

Discuss It:

- **The Expectation Gap:** The women went to the tomb with spices to anoint a corpse (vs. 1). They were prepared for a funeral, not a resurrection. Where in your life are you currently "preparing for a funeral" (focusing on what is dead or gone) while God is trying to show you something living?
- In His crucifixion, Jesus' crown of thorns was a sign of the brokenness of the world. Now that we know the tomb is empty, how does that painful crown of thorns actually prove He is the true King of Glory?
- In verse 11, the Apostles dismissed the resurrection news as "nonsense." Why is it often easier for us to stay in the thorns of our disappointment than to believe in the crown of a new beginning?

SECTION 2 – Emmaus Road

Read It: Luke 24:13-24

Read It:

Now we meet two disciples walking away from Jerusalem. They are heartbroken. Notice verse 21: 'But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.' This is the language of a shattered dream.

Discuss It:

- **The "But We Had Hoped" Moment:** These disciples had a specific blueprint for how Jesus should have saved them. When has a "But I had hoped..." moment in your life made it difficult for you to recognize Jesus walking right next to you?
- **The Blindness of Grief:** Jesus was walking with them, but they were "kept from recognizing him" (vs. 16). Why do you think Jesus often waits to reveal Himself until we've voiced our deepest disappointments?

SECTION 3 –Reflection – Thorns to Throne

Read It: Luke 24:25-35

Reflect on It:

Read It: (

In verses 25–35, Jesus explains that the Messiah had to suffer to enter His glory (vs. 26). He was connecting the shadow of the cross to the substance of the crown.

For this reflection, I'm asking you to sit in silence for 2 minutes and ask yourself, What thorns in my life am I currently viewing as a defeat, when God might be using them as a shadow of a future crown?

Spend 2min sitting in the quiet and think/pray/reflect.

Write down one area where you need Jesus to open your eyes and help you reframe the situation. Ask Him to help you look beyond the thorn and to trust Him to show you how He might make it a crown.

SECTION 4 – From Sight to Insight

Read It: Luke 24:25-35

Discuss It:

- **The Breaking of Bread:** Their eyes were opened in an ordinary act (vs. 30). What "ordinary" part of your routine could become a space where you look for the presence of the living Jesus? (or what ordinary space has become holy to you?)
- **The Hidden Glory:** In verse 26, Jesus asks, *“Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”* How does it change your perspective of your current thorns to realize that, for Jesus, the suffering wasn't a detour away from the throne, but the actual path to it?

DO IT

Choose one or two options to practice this week.

- **The Emmaus Walk:** Go for a 20-minute walk this week with a friend or spouse. Spend the first 10 minutes talking about a "But I had hoped..." disappointment. Spend the last 10 minutes asking, "Where might Jesus be in the middle of this?"
- **The "Hoped For" Pivot:** Look back at the "But we had hoped..." disappointment you identified in Section 2. Write it down on one side of a card, and on the other, write one way Jesus might be using that very "thorn" to redirect you toward His "throne" purpose.
- **The Scar Testimony:** Identify a "thorn" from your past that has now become a "crown." Share that story with someone this week to show them that thorn doesn't cancel out crown. It proves it.
- **The Ordinary Invitation:** At one meal this week, consciously invite Jesus to "break bread" with you. Pause before you eat and acknowledge that He is the living guest at your table.
- **Spur Someone On:** Text someone who is currently in a "tomb" season (grief, loss, or disappointment). Don't give them a cliché; simply tell them, "I'm walking the road with you, and I believe the story isn't over yet."

PRAY IT: 3min

Lord Jesus, we thank You that the tomb is empty and the road is open. We thank You for wearing the thorns so that we might share in Your throne. Forgive us for the times we walk in disappointment, failing to see You standing right beside us in the thorns of our lives. Open our eyes this week to see that our current struggles are not signs of Your absence, but shadows cast by the crowns You are preparing for us. Make our hearts burn with hope in our ordinary meals and our difficult walks. We go out now not as people who are defeated by our thorns, but as people who serve a risen Savior who has already claimed His throne. May we live as witnesses to Your living presence in every normal Tuesday and every broken moment. Amen.