

**Reading:** Luke 24:13-35

**Singing:** 10:1, 3 – 115:1-4 – 190:1, 2, 4 – 188:3-4 – 445:3-4

Intro: The crisis of faith in the life of Jesus' disciples

A. The Father's drawing ministry is *through the preaching of Law and Gospel*

B. The Father's drawing ministry often includes a crisis in faith (Luke 24:19-24)

1. Christ's disciples struggled to grasp the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus

### CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS

I. Why is it needed? II. Why was it resisted?

#### I. WHY IS CHRIST'S SACRIFICE NEEDED?

A. Jesus' disciples didn't think *His cross was needed* (Matt. 16:22; Lk 24:20)

B. Yet Jesus' ministry always preached *spiritual salvation from sin* (Lk 4:18-19)

1. He came to save and not (yet) to condemn (Is. 61:2b)

2. The way of suffering/cross was *a must* (Lk. 24:26): Why?

a. it was decreed: Gen. 3:15; Luke 18:31; Acts 2:23; 3:18

b. it was needed:

- Heb. 9:22: *without shedding of blood is no remission*

- 1 John 3:7 *and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth ...*

c. it was prophesied: Luke 24:27

C. Learn: *when I see the blood, I will pass over* (Ex. 12:13)

#### II. WHY WAS IT RESISTED (OR DISBELIEVED)?

A. Gospel stories don't hide how the disciples resisted teaching of Jesus' cross

1. See Matt. 16:16 & Luke 24:21

B. Why did they and do we still tend to *resist the “Christ alone” doctrine*?

1. By the common thought that **Christ alone is not enough**

a. some look to their good works as part of the basis of hope

b. others look to their good frames and feelings as part of this hope

2. Why are *good works* and *good frames/feelings* excluded in justification?

C. Jesus took the two Emmaus travelers to travel back in the OT: Luke 24:27

1. Jesus opened the *Gospel of God’s wisdom in the method of salvation*

2. The two received here the *revelation of Jesus Christ’s glory* (Luke 24:32)

3. Here the two tasted the only comfort in life and death

a. their security was no more in Jesus’ physical presence

b. their security was now in the *knowledge and trust* in Jesus’ merits

Consider: The journey to **trust on Jesus alone** often is a crisis in faith: why?

A. Because God’s plan of salvation is contrary to our thinking (Rom. 10:3)

B. Because to live by faith and hope on Jesus’ promise is *mighty hard!*

1. it **feels** more secure to have the *right feelings and experiences*

2. it **feels** so contrary to believe to be righteous while feeling unrighteous

a. see Catechism Q & A 60; Rom. 4:5

b. real spiritual growth is *when more and more we give ourselves up to Jesus Christ to be saved on basis of His merits*