

Suburban Birds Part 6
When You Miss Jesus
06/16/2019

- Failure
- When you miss Jesus

Matt. 23:27 (MSG) “You’re hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You’re like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers bright, but six feet down its all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you’re saints, but beneath the skin you’re total frauds.

- Has a theology
- Theology - The study of the nature of God
- God proper
- Having the wrong heart

Luke 8:15 (ESV) As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

- Reading the Bible backwards

Luke 24:13-24 (ESV) 13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” 25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Why we fail to see Jesus:

1st) We Don’t Always **RECOGNIZE** Jesus.

Luke 24:16 (ESV) But their eyes were kept from recognizing him

Gen. 28:16 (NIV) When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

- The reason Costello can't answer the question is because the question itself is the answer
- We have an enemy
- There's more going on behind the scenes than we know
- Life throws such wounds at us that it's hard to recognize Jesus in the midst of the pain
- Jesus walks with you through the pain

Matt. 7:11 (ESV) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

- I was meditating on the goodness of God in the midst of pain

2nd) We're looking in the **WRONG** place.

Luke 24:24 (ESV) Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.

Gen. 28:17 (NIV) He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

- He had an encounter with God
- It changed his life
- But...it happens

3 ways to cultivate an encounter:

Being **HONEST** with God

- Your faults and your feelings
- God will reveal himself to us in direct proportion to our honesty
- The friend of sinners

Being **INTENTIONAL** with my prayers.

1 Thess. 5:17 (ESV) pray without ceasing

- Recurring prayer
- Share every part of my life with Jesus through conversation

Being **REFLECTIVE** with God's word.

Josh. 1:8 (NIV) Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

3rd) We read the Bible **WRONG**.

Luke 24:27 (ESV) And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- You can read the bible through the lens of Jesus or law
- Generally - You'll find what you're looking for

John 5:39 (TLB) "You search the Scriptures, for you believe they give you eternal life. And the Scriptures point to me!"

- Their hearts were broken
- They thought that all of their hopes had been dashed in Jesus' death
- Survival mode
- They had given their lives to this cause and now it's over...

Prov. 4:23 (NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

- Heart Searching
- Do all the scriptures point to Jesus?
- The heart can also be searched

Psalms 139:23 (NIV) Search me, God, and know my heart;

Luke 24:32 (ESV) They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

- Heart Burning

2 Tim. 1:6 (NIV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,

Romans 12:11 (NIV) Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.