

1.

What is the most certain thing in the world? Is there anything more certain than that we will all die? We are all rushing towards death as soon as we are born. But resurrection is victory over death. Resurrection is what makes the powerful death powerless. Honestly, isn't it impossible to defeat death? However, Easter is a season to believe and confess that Jesus overcame death and rose from the dead. Do you believe in resurrection? It is so clear that we will die, but do we believe that Jesus is the one who can bring us back to life even if we die? It is not easy for people who are in the midst of the fear of death to have this kind of faith in resurrection. Like my sons, many children here have a hard time going to the basement alone. Because of the fear of darkness. Because there is a fear that something will jump out of the dark. When I was young, the bathroom was outside the house. You had to go through the barn where the cows were kept to find the bathroom. No matter how much I turned on the lights at night, I was very scared because it felt like something would jump out of the barn or someone was in the bathroom. People who are oppressed by the fear of darkness and the fear of death cannot help but be afraid.

In today's sermon, there are two disciples. These two men heard that Jesus had been resurrected. Several women were the first to spread this rumor. The women visited the tomb where Jesus was buried early in the morning on the third day after his death, but they reported that Jesus' body was missing. And they said that the angels told them, "Jesus is alive." They were surprised but not in disbelief. Why couldn't these two people believe that Jesus was alive again? When they could not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, they chose to leave Jerusalem and go down to Emmaus. Because Jerusalem is so high up, the road to Emmaus is downhill. The reason they chose this downhill path was because of the fear of death. They saw Jesus hang on the cross for three hours and then die. There is a reason why Rome at the time of Jesus crucified its colonists. There is also a reason why they were killed publicly. Rome wanted to show off its power by putting criminals to death on crosses. This is a warning to you not to be defiant, because if you defy, you will die like this. The disciples saw Jesus being publicly crucified. And saw that even though Jesus was on the cross and cried out to God, God turned away and did not respond. They were completely overcome by the fear of death. And because they were intimidated by the violence of the country called Rome, which killed Jesus on the cross, they chose to return to their hometown. They concluded that death is the most fearful thing and is the final judge. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, they thought that they had no choice in the face of death.

2.

However, long before Jesus died on the cross, he repeatedly told his disciples that he would rise again after three days. Jesus mentioned an Old Testament prophet named Jonah who said that he would be raised from the dead three days later. How could Jesus be sure that he would overcome his death and rise again? Was it just believed because Jesus is God? Not at all. In today's verse, Jesus visits two disciples who are returning to

their hometown in disappointment and frustration. And he pretends not to know and asks them what happened. Look carefully at what Jesus said to them. "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Notice how Jesus is scolding his disciples for being foolish and not understanding. The prophets have already spoken, so why don't you believe it? What did the prophets say? They explain that first he will suffer and then he will receive glory. Suffering comes first and glory comes last. This is repeated so many times in the Old Testament, so he is scolding them for not realizing it.

And then what did Jesus do? Jesus began with his book of Moses and proceeded to explain what he said about himself in the books of the prophets and the psalms, making them understand that he had no choice but to be resurrected after his death. What do we need to realize here? Even though Jesus' disciples saw and met the resurrected Jesus, they did not realize the resurrection. However, when Jesus explained and understood the Old Testament, they realized the resurrection. Resurrection is understood through the principles of the Word and the logic of the Bible. The same is true today. Although we cannot physically meet the resurrected Lord, we come to believe in the resurrection once we know the principles of the Bible. If you know the Bible properly, you have no choice but to believe in this faith in resurrection. How on earth did Jesus interpret the Old Testament, the writings of Moses and the prophets, so that his disciples could believe in the resurrection based on the logic of the Old Testament? The first thing we need to know is that Jesus also understood the logic of this Old Testament scripture, so he was already convinced that he would be resurrected. What principle is this that made Jesus confident of his glory and resurrection after his death even before his death?

3.

What is the biggest logic of the Old Testament? These are stories of God continuously overcoming and restoring human sin and death. So, the story of the Bible is the story of God's love and grace that overcame human rebellion and sin. The history of the Bible shows how God restored and renewed humans who fell into sin and restored them as God's people. The story of grace, how God restores his people who had no choice but to die because of sin, is the story of the Bible and its great logic. The Old Testament begins from the very first story with the forgiveness of sins and the grace of God that enables us to overcome sin. Adam and Eve distrust God and fall into sin. God clothed them with leather clothes for those who fell into sin. The story of the sacrifice of animal blood to cover their sins, and the story of God covering their sins with that sacrifice, is the first story in the Bible. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross has already been anticipated from this time. Later, the stories of the Bible are full of stories of humans being saved by God when they had no choice but to die due to their own sins and the sins of their neighbors. Who were those who were driven to death for the sins of their neighbors? Abel was killed by his own brother Cain, but was promised salvation by God. Joseph was also on the verge of death because of his brothers' sins, but God saved him. And through Joseph, God's salvation appears among the Israelites. What about David's story? Through the words of his Psalm 51, David repented of how great a sin he had committed against God after he committed a woman named Bathsheba. As

a sinner who has no choice but to die, he confesses how bad a person he is. However, God forgave David's sin and restored him. Most of the stories in the Psalms are songs in which people who were on the verge of destruction due to death and sin were restored and praised God. The story of God's salvation and restoration is repeated countless times in the Old Testament, such as Isaac being rescued from death, being rescued from the Red Sea while Pharaoh's army was chasing him, and God saving them by holding up a bronze serpent.

So, the Old Testament is the story of God overcoming sin and overcoming death. The same goes for the prophets. Jonah is a prophet who symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus. When the Israelites sinned and left God, God threw them into the sea. What do you mean? You throw the Israelites into captivity in Babylon. The Old Testament compares Babylon to the sea. Did God remain silent after throwing his people into captivity in Babylon? He restores them there and brings them back to the promised land. The prophet Ezekiel says this: This is Ezekiel 37:12-14. **“Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”** These words are a prophecy that God will break and restore the power of sin and death on His people. The prophet who specifically showed this atmosphere of Ezekiel's words was Jonah. Jonah represents Israel and is thrown into the sea. Then, he stays in the belly of the fish for three days and then comes back to life. Through this parable of Jonah, Jesus prophesied that, as a representative of the covenant people, he would be thrown into the sea of sin on behalf of Israel and come back to life. Jesus is a consistent example of the Old Testament Bible. Because he believed in logic, he had no choice but to believe that his death was not the end.

4.

God is not a scary God who judges mankind who has fallen into sin and disintegrates them. God is the Lord of grace who delights in forgiving the sins of those who have fallen into sin, revives and restores them, and makes them citizens of the kingdom of God. Jesus believed that God was the God who raised Israel from the grave, revived them, and restored them. And Jesus was confident that he, who would bear the cross on behalf of sinful humans, would not remain in the tomb but would rise again. If we believe in God's work of salvation and restoration, which is so abundant in the Old Testament, we also do not need to doubt our resurrection. If God's grace is greater and more powerful than sin and death, resurrection is inevitable. Because resurrection is the cancellation of sin and the cancellation of death. The wages of sin is death. Because of sin, humans have no choice but to die. However, if God's grace cancels and eliminates this sin, death, which is the result of sin, is also canceled. God's love is greater than the damage He has suffered because of our sins. God does not judge us for the hurt and damage we have received because of our sins, but rather forgives us and forgets our sins altogether. Because God's love is greater than our sins, we have no choice but to be resurrected. The two disciples who went down to Emmaus understood the logic of this Bible. No matter how much you read the

Bible, it is of no use if you do not understand this logic. There are countless stories in the Psalms and the books of Moses and the prophets where sinful humans undergo judgment, tribulation, and discipline and are made new. The joy of resurrection comes to those who understand this logic.

5.

There are two ways in the world. The road down to Emmaus and the road up to Jerusalem. The road down to Emmaus is a road of retreating and running away from the mission, and the road up to Jerusalem is a road of advancing and rising following the mission. Resurrection faith brought the disciples, who were in fear of death, back to Jerusalem. Resurrection faith leads the disciples to Jerusalem, where the power of death still reigns. Resurrection faith takes us into a place of battle against death. If we return to Jerusalem, our life may be in danger again. If we instead choose the road down to Emmaus, we can avoid danger, avoid suffering, and avoid the burden of living according to the truth. The road to Emmaus is a wide road and an easy road. It is an easy path that you just have to walk along as gravity pulls you down. But the road back to Jerusalem is a steep hill. It is a burdensome place where one must live and practice the truth. It is a narrow road where no one travels. Not many people go there because tribulation and suffering await them.

The comfort and reassurance that many people receive from the path they take seems to be very great. So there are a lot of people on the wide road. "Everyone in the world lives like that, so why?" They comfort themselves as they walk the wide path. Many people give up on their mission in the face of the horrors of reality. In the face of this real-life horror, the questions of "What should I eat, what should I drink, and what should I wear?" become their biggest issues. Choosing the narrow path means belonging to the minority. You can't help but feel psychologically burdened and cornered. If the Holy Spirit does not constantly help you, you will inevitably wonder whether it is right to follow this path. However, the God we believe in does not leave us alone in this tragic and dark reality. God brought about resurrection in the midst of his death. The resurrection of Jesus was not only a foreshadowing of the restoration of the Israelites, but also the first fruit of the resurrection that would occur for all people in the world. We are baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, join the church, the body of Christ, and experience resurrection. We become members of a church, a unit that fights against death, and are sent into a world of darkness where the spirit of death prevails. We live in the midst of the world experiencing resurrection. When my shortcomings are revived, they become my strengths. The revival of my disadvantaged circumstances provides me with strong motivation. When my vanity and vain pride die on the cross and are resurrected, I become healthy and confident. The resurrected Lord has the power to recreate and resurrect my life, which was full of garbage and filth, into a beautiful flower garden. Do not be overcome by the fear of death and give up the path of truth. Do not be complacent and rest on the path that many people take. Instead, constantly beat Me into submission and enter the narrow path, the path of righteousness, and the path of truth. The Bible proves through countless stories that those who walk the narrow path will ultimately triumph and win.