

Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit

Disappointment

Disappoint, *n.*, To fail to satisfy the hope, desire, or expectation of.

Ever been the last one picked at recess? Gotten passed over for a promotion you felt you deserved? Being told “let’s just be friends” by the girl or guy of your dreams. Gotten a bad report from the doctor when you thought everything was okay? Or the greatest disappointment, Christmas morning every gift is open and you didn’t get the one thing you had begged Santa, mom and dad and your grandparents for isn’t there! If you are alive, you have meet with disappointment of some kind or another.

Disappointment leads down a bad road. You know people that have faced disappointment and let it take them to a dark place. They are now the direst people you can get around. You never discuss any medical problem with them because they have seen it get much worse. If you think it is bad, just ask them and they will tell you how much worse it can actually get. They are a pain to be around which only deepens their disappointment with life because they never see the positive of anything. So how do you avoid this? How do you keep from being drawn down into the pit of disappointment?

LIFE QUESTION

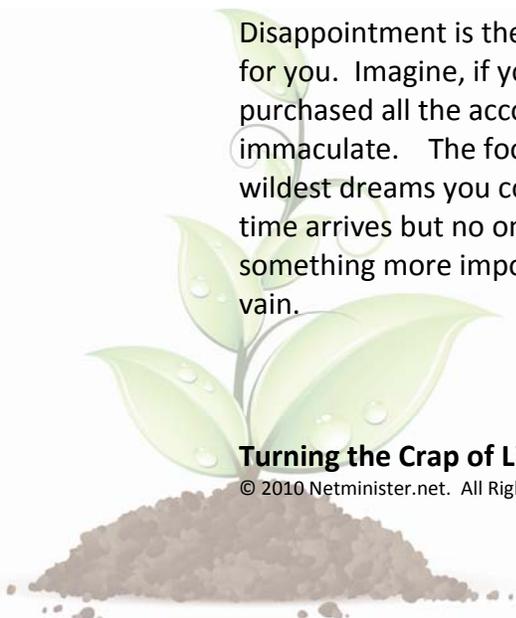
What is the greatest disappointment of your life? Why was it such a disappointment?

Have you ever been disappointed in a friend or close family member? What was the worst part of that disappointment?

Disappointment is the beginning of a course that takes you off the path God has chosen for you. Imagine, if you will, setting up for several weeks for a party. You have purchased all the accoutrements. The invitations are all sent out. Your house is immaculate. The food is ready, the decorations are absolutely perfect. Even in your wildest dreams you couldn’t have imagined everything coming together so well. The time arrives but no one arrives with it. Your party it seems fell on a date when something more important was going on. All your effort now seems to have been in vain.

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Disappointment leads to discouragement, then to disillusionment onward to depression ultimately to defeat. It is the first step down a dead end road that leads many Christians to a place where they never come back.

Luke 24:13-35

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

1. Disappointment Restrains Our Vision: Use God's Glasses to Correct Your Short-Term Vision

The disciples' vision was of something different. They thought that Jesus would be the greatest military leader of all time. That He would swoop in and destroy the Roman oppressors. Everything would be returned to Israel and a new king would sit on her throne. He would be a great ruler, but their vision wasn't right.

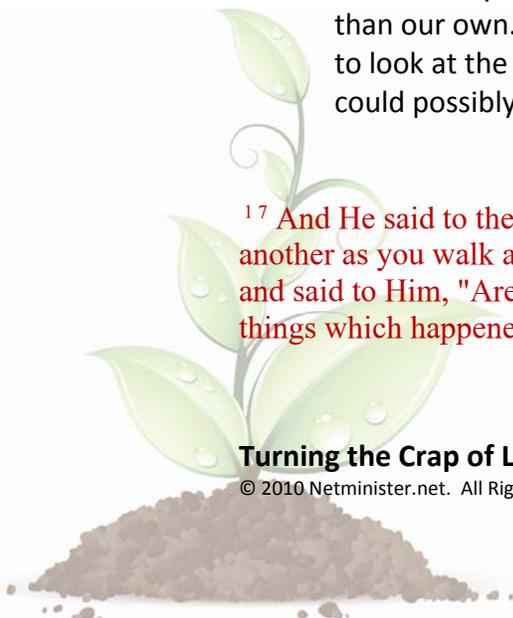
Instead, Christ's vision of His time on earth was for a far greater victory. Not just over the Romans, but over sin and death. With His sacrifice, there would be no need for another sacrifice because He had done it all in the giving of His life. But, the party was suppose to be one of celebration not for a victory over sin and death, but over a small occupying force.

What the disciples expected, was not what was planned. How often we let this type of disappointment rule our life. "God, I expected that you were going to heal my sister." But no healing comes in this life. "God, I expected you were going to give me that promotion I worked so hard to get!" But no promotion comes at work. God has a plan, and when we are willing to go down that path that we may not be as familiar with, we can find that His plan is much better than our own. That is the only way to deal with that disappointment, be willing to look at the situation as one that God is using in a far greater way then you could possibly imagine. Don't let that restrain your vision of Christ in your life.

¹⁷ And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

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¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?"

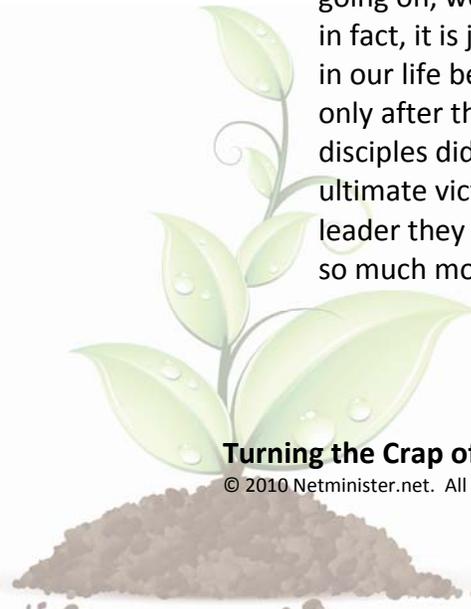
So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.²⁴ And certain 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 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself

2. Read God's Word and Believe! You only have half the story

The disciples lay out the plan they had for Christ. He was a great prophet (Now they no longer seem to believe in Him as the Messiah), great teacher and great in works (healing and teaching was the hallmark of Christ's public ministry). But as Jesus listens to the news they relay, He chides them for their unbelief. As they are walking along, the disciples – which by the way were the followers of Christ! They have heard this all before. Same story, probably the same method of teaching and yet here they are strangely silenced by the fact that now they have the end of story they have been being told.

Jesus tells them the story of Him, not from the outside of that situation, but from the aspect of here is how I am a part of the whole story. He clarifies things that even today we have trouble understanding mostly because we don't have the whole story. When we operate with less than a total understanding of what is going on, we risk disappointment because we think that the story is over. When in fact, it is just at another point. How often we miss the most pivotal moments in our life because we don't have the whole story. And how often do we realize only after the fact that this was a truly important moment in our lives? The disciples didn't realize that Jesus' death on the cross was the final seal to His ultimate victory over death. All they saw it as was short-term loss of yet another leader they had relied upon to get them out of Roman occupation. Yet, it was oh so much more!



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We have to spend time in God's word to see where we are in the story. Where we have come from and where we are going is laid out. Not always in the simplest areas, but it is there. God has put it into our life so that we have the guide, if we will read and if we will believe.

Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

3. Be willing to seek out Jesus and ask Him to stay with you

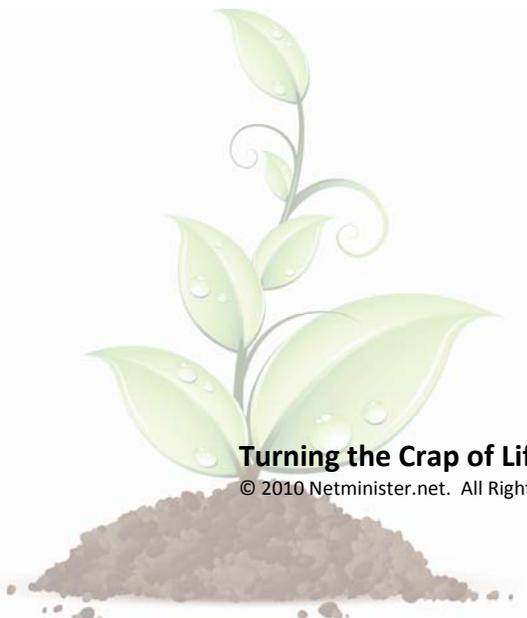
The disciples decided that they had enough walking for the day and wanted to retire to rest. But Jesus seemed to want to go on. He made an intention that He was going to journey further until they convinced Him to stop and stay with them. Even though they did not know this was Jesus, they did know that they were encouraged by His conversation. We too should seek out those that encourage us in our walk. Communion with Christ is key to growing our relationship and seeing the bigger picture of what He has planned for our life.

In staying with the disciples, Jesus went to the house and broke bread, giving us the example of praying for our daily bread. It is at this moment, as He is breaking the bread, that they realize they have seen this before. How often do we need to be reminded during a storm in our life that we are not alone? Even when everyone else has left, Jesus is still with us.

How often have you been in the middle of a situation only to find that afterwards we were not alone? In those times, we cannot help but tell others about how we have made it through a situation with God's help. The disciples talked to each other after He left as if now it makes sense! They realized immediately and everything fell into place. This was the guy! He was the one that we were talking about and here He is. Amazing how we can miss the thing

we needed to see because we have allowed our disappointment has blocked our vision.

Final Analysis: Disappointment is all about missed opportunities. When we have the wrong expectation, we will find that we are always disappointed. Re-examine your expectations, read God's word and believe it. Don't let yourself be short-sighted to the truth God has for your life. Challenge the disappointment you have and examine it to find where you can avoid the wrong path because you were expecting something else. Don't give up while doing good because God has a plan and a purpose, avoid disappointment by not giving up.



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