**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, April 19, 2015 --- Holy Communion**

**Sermon Title: Situational Blindness**

**Scripture: Luke 24:13-32 *(New International Version)***

13Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16but they were kept from recognizing him. 17He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. 18One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” 25He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. 28As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 25**

Leader: In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**People: Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.**

Leader: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

**People: Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.**

**All: According to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.**

**Basic Theme: *Sometimes we think our eyes are wide open and we see the world as it is. However, many times our current circumstances cloud our vision creating situational blindness. It is only when we look through the eyes of Jesus that we truly see.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): For the followers of Jesus who had not yet heard of the empty tomb, it appeared as if their hopes of a new kingdom had been buried along with Jesus. The whole of scripture pointed toward an everlasting Messiah, a savior. But, their circumstances as they saw it, overshadowed the truth of scripture. Jesus opened their eyes!**

**So What? Have your circumstances (*past and present*) created situational blindness in your life so that you are unable to see the truth proclaimed through scripture? The Messiah has come and our savior lives! Do you need an encounter with Jesus to open your eyes?**