

When We Know What Will Happen

Hello. I am Ryan Crill, my family has been going to this church since 2017, and I am a senior at Conestoga high school. I have been involved in the church in a number of ways for a long time. Way back when I was in the children's choir, and I have been in the rejoicing ringers since I was in 5th grade. I have also been on the youth advisory council; I have gone to most of the suppers at St. Johns and I got to go to Montreat last summer.

As you can probably guess from my playing earlier, I am very involved in music at my high school. I love playing the saxophone. I have been playing since 4th grade and it has been a significant part of my life. Last week we had concerts for the jazz ensemble and concert band that I am in a member of. I have done marching band, one of the classical bands, and played in the jazz bands for all of high school. I also played in the pit for the school's musical this year.

Of all of the music groups, jazz is by far my favorite. I love the music and being able to improvise has been very cool to learn. It is also a really fun group of people and I have had amazing teachers. In the springtime, the jazz concert is separate from the classical bands and orchestras. They call it the jazz festival, and both middle school jazz groups from each of the two middle schools play at the same concert as the two high school jazz groups. The event is really cool for the middle schoolers to be able to see what the high school jazz program is like.

The last performance of the evening is the high school jazz ensemble, the upper group. I remember when I was back in 5th grade, sitting in the back left corner of the, what seemed massive, Conestoga auditorium, being amazed by the high school jazz ensemble and wondering if I would ever get the chance to play in it. As time went on it, was clear that I was going to have the opportunity to do so. People graduate and leave spots to fill. And at some point in my freshman year, I realized I would be there someday. This year I am the lead saxophone player for that band.

The disciples went through something somewhat similar, they had a journey with Jesus where they knew him and what would happen to him. They knew he would be crucified and resurrected. They knew what would happen to Jesus. They could see it coming too, they knew that he was going to be crucified for a few days..

This story of them in the boats is one of their moments of confirmation that all that he told them would happen did happen. They went out fishing together and spend all night and couldn't catch a thing. Then a man appears on the shore and tells them to throw the net on the other side and they catch so many fish the net should be broken, yet it isn't. Then they immediately realize it is Jesus and they go to him. They got to have the experience of knowing something will happen and then having it happen. This is almost like my experience with jazz. I thought I might end up where I did but to actually experience it was very special and exciting.

There are things in life that we know will happen, but we still are not always ready. Graduations, retirement, having your first kid, I've been told we don't come with instructions. Moving up to the jazz ensemble my junior year was like this for me. I wasn't quite ready, and I had to get there fast to keep up with the group. The disciples had this experience too. Jesus dies

and is resurrected, and they decide to go fishing because they don't know exactly what to do. Then he appears and helps them. We sometimes are not as fortunate to have Jesus show up in the flesh exactly when we need him, but we can ask him for help and pray. *Love this*

Two weeks ago, on Easter, after my family that came over for dinner had left my, dad went over to my, technically former, neighbors, and shortly after that me and my good friend went over to their house as well. We sat around a fire on a beautiful night, talked, had a good time, and set off some fireworks to celebrate the resurrection, *as one does*. Later in the evening my dad brought up the sermon from church that day. We talked about how we only read passages where we heard about Jesus being resurrected, but not any with him appearing to the disciples or anyone else. He specifically brought up the part from Romans that we read about hope. It was romans chapter 8 verses 24 and 25. Paul in his writings to the romans said, "For in hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

We talked about how Paul is saying that you cannot hope for what you can see, because you already have it! The disciples before Jesus had shown himself to them had to hope, but once they had seen him, spoke with him and broke bread with him they did not have to hope, they knew he was here, and he was with them. They believed. We haven't had the experience of knowing Jesus in the same way that the disciples did. We haven't seen him in the flesh, walked with him, and touched him like they did. But we can still believe. We can still have faith.

So, we are not the disciples, we haven't lived with Jesus like they did, in the flesh. But we can learn from them. We can go to Jesus when we have moments in our life where we are not ready, even if we know what is going to happen. Whether that be trying something new, learning a hard song, going off to college or some other big change in life. We can go to Jesus when we do not know what to do, even and especially when we thought we would.