

## Luke 24:13-32

13 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.

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?"

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.

28 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?"

This story that we just read about the encounter between Jesus and two disciples on the road to Emmaus, is one of the many wonderful features of Luke's gospel account, because only he records it.

And why did He do that? Why of all the encounters that happened on that first Lord's Day between Jesus and his disciples, the encounters with the women near the tomb, or with Peter, why does Luke include only this one? Well in it, he mentions the other encounters in verse 22, but I believe it was because this encounter sums up the state of the hearts of the disciples that morning, how crushed and dispirited they were, and it shows how it took the direct intervention of Jesus to change that.

It's interesting to reflect that had Christ ***not*** been resurrected, that would have remained the mindset of Christ's former followers: "***We had hoped he was the Messiah, but alas...***" Luke is showing us that had Christ not been resurrected, there would never have been a Christian faith. The followers of Christ like these two would gradually have gone their separate ways, returned to their homes, and their former occupations, and Jesus would have been simply another of the many men whom the Jews had hoped was the Messiah.

But Jesus ***was*** raised from the dead, and that changed everything. These men for instance are going to go from glumly discussing the terrible events they had witnessed to being filled with new hope and running straight back to the place they had just left.

Now as we look at what happened, I'm just going to do a brief exposition of the details, and then I want to draw out and apply 3 points.

As I said we have two disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus a town long gone now, about 7 miles away. Now as we read we generally tend to assume they were both men, but there is no reason to assume that it could not have been a man and his wife, especially if this Cleopas is the Clopas of John 19:25 whose wife Mary had stood by the cross of Christ. I tend to think that is actually the case especially because then it makes sense that they came to their home and invited Jesus to stay with them.

Anyway, these two are walking along a stranger overtakes them, we know its Christ, but they do not recognize him. Their eyes “were restrained” that is they were supernaturally prevented by Jesus from recognizing Him. That too was for a purpose, which we’ll talk about later.

The “stranger” asks them what they were discussing and why they are so sad. They’re amazed at the question, because the Stranger overtook them coming out from Jerusalem, and they figured that everyone in the city *must* have heard of the great prophet Jesus Christ, how he had entered the city in triumph a week earlier, but had ended up being condemned by the chief priests and rulers and then executed by crucifixion. Certainly after *3 days* even those who weren’t at Calvary must have heard the news.

Two things to note about that, first Cleopas calls Jesus a Prophet, a mighty prophet, but still a prophet. Christ’s followers are already figuring they must have been wrong to assume he was the Messiah, because they assumed the Messiah would ride in and overthrow the Romans, not die on a cross. Secondly notice where he puts the blame for what happened. Not the Romans, but the Sanhedrin and the High Priests.

As to the events that they had heard about that morning, the angels, the empty tomb, the testimony of Peter and John, they mention these things, but clearly they can’t figure it out. What does all this mean?

And then the stranger having heard their answer rebukes them, haven’t you read the Bible? (And remember at this time the Old Testament *was* the bible) Don’t you understand it? The Christ, that is the Messiah *had to go through the things you mentioned. That’s what the Law and the Prophets taught!* You are calling Jesus a prophet, but that’s wrong, these things happened to Him

*because he's the Messiah! And then the stranger goes right through the Old Testament showing them how all of it taught about the Christ, and what would happen to Him. **Now isn't that a bible study you would have like to have been in on?***

Finally, it is getting late, the sun is beginning to set, and they have reached their lodging, but the stranger appears to be going on, so they say to him, look its almost night, and the implication of course is its going to be dangerous to go on. *You ever go hiking and leave it too late?* I remember hiking in the South West, I'd gone with a group, but they wanted to hike on an easy trail and I wanted to hike on a hard one with better views, and I picked a stupidly long trail figuring I could do it, and get back in time because I was in shape back then and it was only 10 miles. But what I was thinking was TEN MILES (-----) not TEN MILES (^^^^) So I walked until I go tired and it was getting late, and then I turned back at what I later discovered was about the 7 mile point, and so I discovered that when it gets dark in the desert, it gets DARK, and it got very dangerous, very quickly.

Well obviously they are concerned for the strangers safety, but they also clearly find his preaching marvelous and compelling and want him to stay for more. So they sit down to eat. Now before every meal they would break bread, and say a blessing: "*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, hamotzi lechem, min ha aretz.*"

*"Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, Who has brought forth bread from the earth."*

Now normally the head of the household would have preformed that duty, but in this case Jesus just naturally performed the blessing as he had for his disciples countless times before as they had traveled together, and it is at that point that their eyes are miraculously opened and they recognize him, and they know for certain whose nail pierced hands just broke bread for them again.

At that point they are amazed and they realized why their *hearts Burned within them as He taught them the Bible on the Road.*

1) The first point is this, *What were they doing when Jesus overtook them on the road.* They were two Christians talking about spiritual subjects. Now I am not overspiritualizing to say that when we as Christians discuss the things of the faith together, Christ draws near. Think of all the times scripture just naturally exhorts us to spiritual conversation: ***“Prov. 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” Heb. 10:24 “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” 1 Thess. 5:11 “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”*** and I could go on and on. How good it is for us, and yet how infrequently we do it. How timid we are when it comes to discussing the faith, and yet we can spend hours talking about stuff that is either frivolous or even deeply unedifying.

***It is pity christians should ever meet together without some talk of their meeting in heaven, or of the way to it, before they part. It is a pity so much time is spent in vain conversation and useless disputes, and not a serious word of heaven among them. Methinks we should meet together on purpose to warm our spirits with discoursing of our rest. To hear a christian set forth that blessed, glorious state, with life and power, from the promises of the Gospel, methinks should make us say, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he opened to us the Scriptures?” If a Felix will tremble when he hears his judgment powerfully represented, why should not the believer be revived when he hears his eternal rest described? Wicked men can be delighted in talking together of their wickedness; and should not christians then be delighted in talking of Christ, and the heirs of heaven in talking of their inheritance?” – Richard Baxter***

Let us often be about the business of blessing one another and discussing the things of the faith, that Jesus might once again draw near and bless our conversation.

**2) *Second Point:*** Kids how many of you have had a chance to swim in the ocean? Ok, let me ask you how does the ocean taste? It tastes salty doesn't it? It even smells salty doesn't it? Well, let me ask, if you were to fill a glass with water from the ocean could you see the salt? No, it looks clear. But there is salt in it dissolved, in solution.

Well Just as there is salt present in solution, every drop of the waters of ocean, so Jesus is present in every part of the Old Testament. Do not think for a moment that just because you do not read the word “Jesus” prior to Matthew, that he isn’t there. That is why Jesus was able to “expound to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

Now that is very important, because there are people out there who believe that the Old Testament wasn’t about Jesus and that there is a sharp break between the old and new testaments, but in fact what we read in this entire book is the history of Redemption, and there is only one redeemer in all of it and that is Jesus Christ. And the great message of the Bible from beginning to End is that sinful men can only be saved through faith in HIM. As far back as Gen. 3:15 right after the fall of man we read God’s promise to the Serpent of Old, Satan - ***“15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*** Her Seed was Jesus, and while at the cross, Satan bruised his heel, Christ victorious crushed SATAN’S HEAD!

That is why Jesus was able to say, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” All of the Old Testament Saints believed the promises of God, that He would deliver them by a redeemer, who would be Immanuel – which means in HEBREW God with US. And so with Job they were able to confess thousands of years before Jesus, God the Son, became incarnate: ***JOB 19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;***

The saints in the Old Testament were saved by looking forward in faith to Christ and His sacrifice, You are saved by faith in Christ and His Sacrifice. Because we live after the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus we know more and see it more clearly. But ultimately it is the same Christ and the same Sacrifice. Warfield compared the Old Testament to a room beautifully furnished but dimly lit – the New Testament flips on the lights to reveal more starkly the furniture that was always there.

The disciples should have known that, but they were so tied up with traditions of the day that they couldn’t think of the Messiah in terms of the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. Jesus needed to teach them the truth, and give

them the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within their hearts and open their eyes, that they might divide the scriptures aright.

3) Final Point, *Therefore* good preaching, saving preaching, is to preach Christ crucified for sinners and risen from the dead - from all the Scriptures. Old and New Testament. And remember only that Gospel message, comes with the power of the Holy Spirit. Only that message has the power to give us new hearts and cause them to burn.

In August of 1928 two great Welshman Martin Lloyd Jones and Tom Nefyn were both invited to preach in adjoining locations at a two day conference. Both were famous, both were educated, both were tremendous charismatic men and wonderful speakers, but there was a critical difference between them. Martin Lloyd Jones, believed the Gospel and on the first day he preached the Gospel of Christ born, and Christ Crucified, and Christ Reason again. And told men that they might saved only by believing in Him.

Tom Nefyn was a modernist, he did not believe the Gospel, that day he preached against the deity of Christ, and against the resurrection and told men they could go to heaven by living good lives.

Well what happened? The next day, the hall Nefyn was preaching in was half-empty, but the church Lloyd Jones was preaching in was filled to overflowing, they had to sit on the steps leading to the pulpit. And why? Same instruments in a worldly sense. But only the message of LLOYD JONES had heavenly fire, only it could make men's hearts burn within them, only that GOSPEL MESSAGE of the RISEN CHRIST SAVES.

***{hold up Bible} Oh friends, I hope you have swum in this ocean, and tasted the salt of this sea, I hope you have met the risen Jesus, I hope your hearts are burning. May God make it so!***