

## Concerning Himself

### Luke 24:13-27

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some 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." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things **concerning himself**. ESV

Here at this local church we strive to **preach the Word!**

We believe that the Bible is inerrant [without error];  
infallible [will not lead to false teaching];  
and plenary [fully inspired by the Holy Spirit]

Because that is our belief much of our preaching is expositional.

Me and Brother Swain generally take a book of Scripture and work our way through it verse by verse. Although my message today is topical.

Brothers Gables and Bunger lean more to topical messages but even then they usually deal with their topics by a thorough exposition of related passages of Scripture.

Expositional preaching involves more than reading a portion of Scripture and then talking about something else. Expository preaching involves taking a passage of Scripture and preaching the truth that is revealed in that text.

In my messages I try to focus on a **doctrinal theme** that is supported by the text being expounded. In that way the church is edified. And we are encouraged that we are worshipping Jesus the Christ in spirit and in truth!

Some very ignorant people have said that they do not want “doctrine.” Doctrine simply means teaching.

One of the best sermons I ever heard was preached by Brother E. W. Johnson, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a lot of years ago now he said:

**“God’s elect are found in strange places.”**

One of those strange places is recorded in John 3 when a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Jesus told this very religious man that he lacked something that was essential.

The exposition of Christ and Nicodemus in John 3 demands that we accept the doctrine of Holy Spirit **regeneration** as essential to the knowledge of Jesus Christ: **i.e., You must be born again!**

Another one of those strange places is found in John 4.

Consider the woman at the well in John 4 which clearly argues for the **doctrine of election**. Why else **must** Jesus go through Samaria except to keep a divine appointment with one of God’s elect?

### **John 4:1-6**

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), <sup>3</sup> He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

**4 But He needed to go through Samaria.**

**5** So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. **6** Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

NKJV

In our text today the strange place is on a road where there were two men walking towards Emmaus.

In another strange place there was a thief on a cross just moments from entering into eternity and he was found by God!

**“God’s elect are found in strange places.”**

The doctrine of Holy Spirit regeneration is in the book of Jude which is a warning to the church about the danger from within the church assembly:

“certain men who crept in unawares and turned the grace of God into lasciviousness,” because these certain men were not regenerate, i.e., they were not born again!

In John 5, you can’t miss the doctrine of the **sovereignty of God!**

The Pharisees got angry at Jesus? They said He violated the Sabbath. He had mercy on only one man at Bethesda {Place of Mercy}.

How many people were there at the pool hoping to be healed? A great multitude! How many did Jesus heal? One more than deserved to be healed!

**“God’s elect are found in strange places.”**

In Acts 10 & 11 we see how Cornelius and Peter were divinely prepared for their coming together. Cornelius, the Gentile Centurion, and Peter the Jew who would have nothing to do with a Gentile “dog,” were both prepared by the **providence of God** to accept one another for the divine purpose of opening the Gospel to the Gentiles.

One of the most instructive passages in the entire Bible is Acts 15:11

The context of Acts 15 is where certain Judaizers were saying that a Gentile man must be circumcised and become a Jew before he could become a Christian.

**But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

Peter flipped it on the Jews and said that we Jews shall be saved even as the Gentiles are saved; and that is by grace through faith alone.

Today, by God’s grace, I intend to expound yet another doctrine.

### **The doctrine of Divine Revelation.**

By that I mean that in order to know Jesus Christ in a saving relationship; He must be a **revealed** Christ.

Back in the year 2000, at least I believe it was that year, at the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting, a lot of attention was given to the revision of the Baptist Faith and Message. One faction argued that by “soul competency” and the “priesthood of believers,” a person might have knowledge of Jesus Christ that is not constrained by the Bible.

Someone said: “I believe the Bible is God’s Word, and I strive to obey the standards it prescribes.” The Bible is a book we can trust... That being said, the bible is still just a book. Christians are supposed to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, not a book.... “For one must see that the Bible is a record of what Christ has done. Christ is the revelation of God. He is not the focus of divine revelation.... we must be careful not to elevate the written word above the One to whom it points.”

## **Does that sound like a reasonable proposition?**

Brothers and sisters, I agree with Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary;

“All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. The Bible is not merely a record; it is the revelation of God. It is always a triumphant moment when this convention states clearly its belief that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God...

Pray tell, what do we know of Jesus apart from Scriptures?”

Speaking personally, there is a familiarity with Jesus that I find alarming. I have heard people say, “Jesus told me this and that.”  
How do you know it is Jesus and not an evil spirit?

One time a woman told me that Jesus told her to divorce her husband.  
But she did not charge him with adultery or desertion; she was just tired of him.  
The Bible says God hates divorce!

And I will go on to say that spiritual knowledge of the Jesus of the Bible must be revealed to a soul that has been born again. A person can know as many facts about Jesus as did Judas Iscariot and go to hell for their trouble.

***“He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”***

Brother Gables is a better preacher than I am. This is not false modesty on my part, it is just a fact. Many men can preach the Gospel better than me.

But no one can preach a better Gospel! Why is that true?  
The apostle Paul teaches that there is only one Gospel!

Jesus preached the greatest sermons ever heard by men or angels.  
Jesus preached from a boat; Jesus preached The Sermon on the Mount,  
Jesus preached the parables; Jesus pronounced the woes on the hypocrites, et al.

But here on the road to Emmaus we have what may have been the greatest sermon ever uttered on earth because we are told that Jesus:

***“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets. He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”***

In case you have not been taught this, the references to the Scriptures in the NT, refers to what we call the OT.

Until the NT was written all the Scriptures was the OT.

We are not told which OT Scriptures Jesus used but I have no doubt that they were some of the ones that dealt with what He said in Verse 26.

***“Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”***

Dare I suggest some possible OT texts that Jesus expounded?

Moses writes about our first parents and the first sin of first man.

Genesis 3: 15 is the prototype of the Gospel. ...”The head of the serpent will be bruised! But the heel [His humanity] of the seed of woman will be bruised....”

Moses writes about a flood and the **righteous** judgment of God against ungodly men. Moses tells us that the eight souls who were sealed in the ark by God Himself were the only ones who were saved from drowning. And we know that Noah’s ark is a type of Christ and the only way to escape the judgment of God is to be sealed in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The Lord preached the Gospel to Abraham.

Jesus told the Pharisees “Abraham saw His day and was glad.”  
What did Abraham see?

God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. When Abraham was about to kill his only son, the son of promise, God arrested his arm with the knife and showed him the ram caught in the thicket:

Abraham saw **The doctrine of Substitution!**

The Gospel is about an Innocent Substitute dying in the place of sinners!

The doctrine of divine providence is found in the story of Joseph.

Moses writes about Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers and who, by God's providence, became the ruler of Egypt, second in power only to the Pharaoh. God used that wicked act of men to deliver them.

### **Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."  
<sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. ESV

Do you think Jesus could have used this example?

In another example of divine providence, Peter preached that "Jesus of Nazareth...being delivered by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death..."

Moses, at the Lord's direction, made a bronze serpent and put it up on a pole and told the people who were bitten to LOOK! Jesus says that bronze serpent represented sin and that He too must be lifted up on a pole!  
And to be healed from sin we must look to Jesus!

*"...and all the prophets..."*

**Isaiah** prophesied about the sign of the virgin who will bring forth a Son; about One who "has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him." One who was so cruelly treated that "...His visage was marred more than any man." One who was "led as a lamb to the slaughter," but on Whom was laid the iniquity of us all!

**Jeremiah** writes about a “Branch of Righteousness,” the Shepherd who cares for the flock.

**Ezekiel** writes about Messiah as a tender twig that becomes a stately cedar. He is the King who has the right to rule and He is the true Shepherd who will deliver and feed His flock.

**Daniel** tells us **when** the Messiah will be born.

**Hosea** tells us that the Son will be called out of Egypt.

**Jonah** spends three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish and learns that “*salvation is of the Lord!*” Jonah, says Jesus, is the type of the three days and three nights that the Christ will be in the grave!

**Micah** gives us the exact place where the Messiah is to be born: Bethlehem! When the Magi were seeking the newborn King, they searched the Scriptures!

**Zechariah** prophesies, “*In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*”

And we still sing:

There is a Fountain Filled With Blood, drawn from Emanuel’s veins.”

If we know our Bibles we can go to almost any Old Testament passage and find Jesus Christ

*“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.”*

John 5:47

Beloved, my desire is that you believe in Jesus Christ.

*“...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*

My desire is that each of you may say with those who heard this wonderful sermon preached by Jesus,:

*“Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”*



This is my argument for the **doctrine of divine revelation**.

Have you seen with the eyes of faith the Jesus of the Scriptures?

Unless the Holy Spirit blesses these words, they are of no more value than one of those ads on TV where they shout at you and think that will cause you to buy one of their automobiles.

I doubt if I will ever actually do it but I have seriously thought about going into one of those dealerships and shouting at them! **I'm here to look at a car!**

God has promised to honor His Word: the Word of God will accomplish the end for which He intends it. I pray it is for blessing and not for judgment!

**“Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things  
and to enter into His glory?”**

Amen!

Jim Gunn

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