

JESUS OPENED OUR EYES

(Sermon Summary)

May 8th Evening Service

Preacher: Craig Clarke (Jacksdale)

Reading: Luke 24: 13-35.

The two disciples in Luke 24 were making a 7-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus but they actually made a spiritual journey. They started out blind – but then their eyes were opened by the Lord Jesus. When the Lord first came alongside them they did not recognise Him. But then He opened their eyes and their lives were transformed. They were sad and dismayed when they set out. They were changed when their eyes were opened.

In verses 15 and 16 we are told that they were blind. They knew about Jesus but they did not actually know Him. There were various reasons why they did not recognise Him. We read that God had restrained their eyes. In this way He would receive the glory when they were able to see. They were blind because things had not worked as they had expected. They had had pre-conceived ideas about what the Christ should do. We can also see that they had little faith (vv22-24). They had not believed the report of the women about the vision of angels. They had dismissed reports that He was alive.

It can be the same in the church today. People know about the Lord but do not actually know Him. Muslims do not believe the report about Him. So we need to preach the gospel to these people so that they will believe and their eyes will be opened.

The next step on their journey is that their eyes were opened. They did not figure this out for themselves. He only could open their eyes. He did this by declaring to them the gospel (vv25-26). He had died and now He preaches about Himself. This is our model too (See Romans 10:14). To declare the gospel is an absolute 'must'. Paul did likewise in Thessalonica (Acts 17) when he reasoned with the people. This is the prescribed method and it arouses faith. The disciples on the road felt their hearts burn within them as He opened up the Scriptures to them. They should burn whenever we hear the gospel. John Wesley knew his heart strangely warmed. The disciples did nothing but listen. It is sad that so many churches do not preach the gospel but have watered it down. We should always pray for the work of the gospel.

The end of their journey was when the disciples were moved to share the good news (vv33-35). They were transformed and walked back the 7 miles now to proclaim the message. They went that very hour. They could not but speak the things they had heard and seen. We too have seen and heard, and our lives have been transformed.

We must ask some questions.

Do we know the Christ? Have we had our eyes opened? Do we have fellowship with Him?

If we are Christians, do we have a desire to share the gospel where and when we can?

The fields are white for the harvest. A lot of people do not like the way things are in society. They are confused and are ready to hear from us. Not all non-Christians agree with what is happening in the world. We have an answer – Jesus Christ.