

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

“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 [Jesus] 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 [Jesus] 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?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.”

'Eyes Are Opened at Emmaus'

Last week in our journey through Luke’s orderly account we considered just a single verse regarding the marveling of Peter... Today we will tackle one of the longest passages we have studied together from Luke’s Gospel...

- But a passage that is rich in the lessons it can teach us as we see Jesus meet with, gently rebuke, teach and inspire to service, another two of His disciples

Luke’s account of the resurrection began with the women who were told the Good News by the angels and then he mentioned Peter who came to the empty tomb and went away marveling as we saw last week. We saw in John’s Gospel that John himself, who also ran to the tomb and began to believe, but he said in verse nine of the 20th chapter of his Gospel: “For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.”

Luke next tells us of the appearance of the risen Jesus to two disciples traveling on the road to Emmaus...

- We will see Jesus also bringing the Scriptures to their minds.

Luke is the only writer who gives us the details of this appearance of Jesus, and he does so at great length. I believe Luke focuses on this visit because it represents much of what we are going to see in the Book of Acts as Peter, John, Stephen, Paul and others show over and over again that Jesus is the Christ from the Old Testament! Luke begins this account at verse 13:

“Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.”

- The name of the village is given as Emmaus and the distance is given as 60 furlongs or about seven miles.

No one is quite sure today where Emmaus was, but we know that it is about seven miles from Jerusalem: We have another of those great archeological finds waiting to happen... Like the Hittites who the liberals at one time said did not exist

- Remember, if the Bible is wrong about the history and geography it presents, then it is proper to ask WHY we should trust any other revelations it gives

We are not told why these two men were traveling to Emmaus, but it is likely that one of them lived in this city, since it appears that they invited Jesus to stay at their own home. Emmaus being their residence would also explain why they were traveling away from Jerusalem as things seem to be so much up in the air with all of the various reports coming in that morning.

- They could return on short notice as they actually did later in the day

The next verse in this account could have been a sermon all to itself...

14 “And they talked together of all these things which had happened.”

The disciples have had a rough few days... They have been scattered, dejected and fearful... They hid and are now not sure what to do

- And yet here we find two men talking about Jesus
- Conversing with each other and reasoning as best they could about what had happened.

These two disciples were practicing what we learn in Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

This account appears to be a direct fulfillment of what the Prophet Malachi wrote about these days:

3:16 “Then those who feared Jehovah spoke to one another, And Jehovah listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear Jehovah And who meditate on His name. 17 “They shall be Mine,” says Jehovah of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.””

‘Then those who feared Jehovah spoke to one another’ ...

- Those who fear the Lord, speak of the Lord, meditate on the Lord, marvel on the things of the Lord...
- Like Peter and now like these two disciples
- Even when their circumstances seem dire, no, ESPECIALLY when their circumstances seem dire and even hopeless!

‘And Jehovah listened and heard them’ ...

- We should not talk of the things of the Lord AFTER we have everything figured out in our minds...

- We should NOT wait until our relationship with the Lord is strong before we engage in conversation about the faith
- And we should certainly NOT wait until we are READY in our own minds or feel the way we think we should before we gather with the Saints for worship

We are to follow the admonition of the writer of Hebrews:

10:23 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

This is what is being commanded to parents for the proper upbringing of covenant children in Deuteronomy:

6:4 “Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God, Jehovah is one! 5 You shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

- These are lessons that we must learn and practice if we want the blessing that we find in verse 15:

“So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.”

- Jesus draws near to them while they are conversing and reasoning about Him!
- Such is the case with all the situations I have just outlined!
- We cannot find Jesus in our own strength or with our own efforts
- It is Jesus who will find us when we are walking faithfully in the light that He has given us.

16 “But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.”

- Jesus does not desire to be seen at this point because He is going to continue to draw them out
- Such is often the case with us as well: All that we need to see and know is NOT simply dropped in our lap all at one time!
- Again God uses elders & deacons, parents and other Saints to ask the kind of questions Jesus asks in this account, which forced them then and us today to think things through!

17 “And [Jesus] said to them,

“What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

- Jesus KNOWS what they were talking about, but He desires to converse with them about the important matters they have been talking and reasoning about
- They respond as He expected by repeating what concerned them, thinking Jesus must have been hidden away not to know...

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?"

- Jesus does not want them to be sidetracked at this point over where He had been, so Jesus asked again... 19b "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."

- They are conversing and reasoning about Jesus but have little understanding of how great a Prophet He is, nor how God's plan of salvation has been worked out, and certainly they are not receiving the good news of that day.
- They are still blinded by seeing things from their perspective, wanting a great ruler to get them out from under the yoke of Rome
- How often we fail to see what God teaches us because we have our own idea of how things should be working...
- Even thinking that we know what God should be doing, just as these disciples had done...

21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel."

- BUT, the events of the past few days had thrown them into much confusion and now they did not know what to make of the events of this first Easter morning

"Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened."

We are not told what they were reasoning about as they journeyed to Emmaus, but obviously this being the third day had stuck some sort of cord in their minds... It may have been some memories from the Old Testament coming to mind as well as the teaching of Jesus

- In Genesis 22 Abraham looks up on the third day of his journey to the land of Moriah to sacrifice his only son Isaac.
- In the prophesy of Hosea they would have read, "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up."

Genesis gives us a lengthy account of Joseph reconciling with his brothers [*which by the way is a story that is VERY similar to how Jesus is hiding himself from these two disciples!*]
- In Genesis 42:18 we read, "on the third day Joseph said to them, 'Do this and you will live.'"
- In Joshua two we have the story of Rahab where she hides the spies and then sends them to the mountains telling them to, "hide there three days until the pursuers have returned."
- In the story of the Exodus, God brings His people to Mount Sinai where in Exodus 19:10 Jehovah tells Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow and let them wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day Jehovah will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."
- When the people were returning from the Babylonian captivity, Ezra had them camp at the river Ahava for three days to review them
- When Ester must risk her life by going before the King to plead for the lives of her people, we read in Ester 5:1 "On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the King's palace."

- **And it was Jesus Himself who had reminded these disciples that Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights!**

As Mike reminds us often, some people think a number is just a number, but obviously these disciples were rightly haunted by the fact that this was the third day!

- **The disciples go on to tell Jesus what has occurred this very day...**

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.”

- **Jesus has drawn them out & now He begins to teach them what they need to learn after a gentle rebuke...**

25 Then [Jesus] 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?"

- **They had seen all the Old Testament verses about the Messiah coming in glory and conquering His enemies**
- **BUT they had missed all of the Old Testament verses that revealed how the Messiah had to suffer for the sins of His people**
- **How often today do we see Christians who know ALL the verses about how Jesus suffered for His people to save them from their sins, which are important!**
- **BUT they fail to see all the verses that show how Jesus is going to rule in glory with His Kingdom filling the whole earth... Including the Great Commission!**

With many of us having been there, this should remind us to be a little more understanding & compassionate about how confused these disciples were that morning in their discussions or others today!

- **Jesus takes them to the Scriptures which is where we will see the Saints in the Book of Acts take people as well...**
- **WHERE WE MUST GO today if we are to understand all that God would teach us!**

27 “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

- **This is a MAJOR lesson for us to learn: IF you want to unlock the wisdom and power of the Old Testament, we need to learn how to see Jesus EVERYWHERE in the Law and the Prophets**

28 “Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and [Jesus] indicated that He would have gone farther.”

- **Some stumble here thinking that Jesus was being deceptive, but He was simply continuing to draw the best out of these confused disciples.**
- **Our homework this week can be the lengthy account of Joseph in Egypt that we find in Genesis 41-50: Where Joseph gently reunites himself with those wayward brothers**

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.”

- **There is much confusion with what happened here...
But I think we should let the text speak for itself:**
- **This was not Jesus giving them the Lord’s Supper, mostly because He left before it was finished!**
- **But it was a very familiar thing for these disciples to see, perhaps including the Last Supper as well.**

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?"

They eyes were blinded and now their eyes were opened... God withheld the Lord’s identity and God revealed the Lord to them... At the same time we must remember that these disciples were doing what they should have been doing, conversing & reasoning about Jesus

- **This is another beautiful picture of how we often see responsibility and providence working together!**

In fact I hope you begin to see the pattern here:

- **Jesus first appears to the women who come to the tomb to serve Him even in death**
- **Then Jesus appears to Peter who left the empty tomb marveling at what had taken place**
- **Now Jesus appears to two disciples who are conversing and reasoning about Jesus**
- **And next week Jesus will appear to the disciples who have gathered!**

33 “So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.”

- **These two disciples have joined the growing crowd of witnesses who have met the risen Jesus**

Remember, that Jesus told Thomas ‘blessed are those who do not see and yet believe.’

Again, this is not blind faith in the modern leap of faith way of thinking

- **We DO have the many eye witnesses who bear witness for us that Jesus is risen from the dead**
- **We are responsible to believe them!**
- **But even today, we have the risen Jesus who comes along side us as we converse and reason and worship in the way that we should**
- **Jesus will draw us out, understanding how confused we often are, gently rebuking us for our errors, but more importantly opening our eyes so we can see Him more and more each day in the pages of the Scriptures and in our lives.**

This is the lesson the Apostle Paul, the Hebrew of the Hebrews, had learned and wanted to pass along to the Saints at Philippi:

Philippians 3:8 “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

- **Paul’s desire was that his eyes be opened to see all that Jesus was doing and his prayer is that it be the same for all of us as we strive to live the Christian life...**

12 “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- **When their eyes were opened these disciples returned immediately to Jerusalem to share the Good News**
- **They saw Jesus there again and then they were empowered by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as Jesus had promised, going forth in that power to fill the earth with the Kingdom of Jesus!**

15 “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in any thing you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.”

- **We are to KNOW Jesus and the power of His resurrection**
- **Our sins are forgiven,**
- **The power of death has been broken**
- **We are to go forth and serve the risen and reigning Savior!**

As we shall sing in just a moment, truly the year of Jubilee has come!

Communion Meditation: Philippians 3:17-21

“7 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”