

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 31ST, 2024 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

HE WALKS WITH US (LUKE 24:13-24) "EVERYTHING THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE"

Two disciples were making the 7-mile trek to a village called Emmaus after the events that had taken place during the Passover Festival in Jerusalem.

- These two fairly unknown disciples were "discussing and arguing" about the arrest and crucifixion of the Messiah as they made their way back home.

"...THE ONE WHO WAS ABOUT TO REDEEM ISRAEL"

Though we do not know much about the two men, we know they followed Jesus to some degree.

- They were in Jerusalem celebrating Passover and the arrival of the Messiah. They, like so many others, misunderstood Jesus' purpose, thinking he was there to liberate them from Rome.

THEIR CONVERSATIONS WERE INTERRUPTED

Their discussion of the Messiah was interrupted by another traveler whom they did not recognize as Jesus.

- All of their talking of the Messiah gave way to them talking to the Messiah. We must be careful not only to talk about the Messiah but also to talk to the Messiah.

GOD DWELLS AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Verse 15 says, "Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them."

- God's desire has always been to dwell among a people who bear His name and likeness. Genesis 3:8 says God "walk[ed] in the garden in the cool of the day" (ESV). Similarly to Adam and Eve in the garden, God reveals himself to us, even in our sins.

GOD CALLS US TO RECEIVE HIM

God calls out to us in our sins and calls us to repentance.

- We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and Christ came to make the payment that was due for our sins and to satisfy the debt we incurred, releasing us from sin and its punishment (Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6).

THOSE TO WHOM GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

The two men were discouraged. Things had not gone the way they planned. They were saddened by the events of the day and were grieving.

- The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). The Lord redeems the life of his servants, and all who take refuge in him will not be punished (Psalm 34:22).

"ARE YOU THE ONLY VISITOR...WHO DOESN'T KNOW..."

Cleopas voiced his shock at their new traveling companion for not knowing about the events of the day, to which Jesus replies, "What things?"

- Jesus, fully God and fully man, knew the events, obviously, and the condition of the men's hearts but encouraged them to share what plagued them (1 Peter 5:7).

HE SUFFERED FOR US (LUKE 24:25-35)

"THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN!"

Jesus listened to the men explain their understanding of the events that had transpired, then told them they were "foolish" and "slow to believe."

- Paul uses the same language in addressing the Galatians (Galatians 3:1,3), showing that the truth was right in front of them, but they failed to see it.

TWISTING SCRIPTURE

They were blinded by grief: the awaited Messiah had died, and His Kingdom had not yet been established.

They had missed that the Scriptures, which they should have been familiar with, said the Messiah must suffer before entering His glory.

- They awaited the Messiah, and we await His return. We must familiarize ourselves with the Truth so we are not blinded by fear or grief.

A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MESSIAH

Do we see the intimate care that verse 27 shows Jesus has for the disciples? Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He takes the time to explain all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- Jesus ensured they had a complete picture of who the Messiah was and not who they wanted Him to be.

"THEY CONSTRAINED HIM" (KJV)

Jesus wasn't going to force his company on the men and indicated that He would continue walking past their village, but the men insisted that Jesus stay with them.

- When Christ reveals himself to us, we must invite him in, take hold of him, and abide ("to remain in or live in God's presence") in Him (John 15:1-10).

THE LIVING WORD

Whether it was God who veiled their eyes or grief that blinded them, when Jesus broke bread, "their eyes were opened," and they realized they had been walking with the Messiah.

- At the moment they recognized Jesus, He disappeared from their sight. The men discuss how their hearts burned within them from God's words.

THEY TELL THE GOOD NEWS

They had just concluded a 7-mile walk home. Still, after what they had just experienced, they were rejuvenated and immediately made the walk back to Jerusalem to tell everyone the great news of Jesus' resurrection.

- We should be rejuvenated from being in the presence of the Lord but also burdened with the desire to go and tell others.

HE RESTORES US (JOHN 21:15-19)

JESUS RESTORED PETER

Peter returned to fishing while carrying the guilt and shame of denying the Lord three times. When Peter saw the Resurrected Savior on the beach, he jumped from the boat and swam to the Lord.

- Peter had denied Jesus three times, and three times we see Jesus give Peter the opportunity to affirm his love for Him along with a threefold call to feed His sheep.

RESTORED FOR A PURPOSE

Jesus walked on the beach with Peter after sharing a meal with him and other disciples. Jesus fully restored Peter, told him where following Him would lead, then boldly told Peter, "Follow Me."

- Jesus meets us where we are. He wants to walk with us and restore us, but He tells us to follow Him.

WHAT NOW?

- The two on the road to Emmaus were interrupted by Jesus. Are we willing to allow our plans to be interrupted? Have we become so busy that there is no time for Christ and others?
- Like the two disciples and others in Jerusalem, have we mistaken what Jesus has come to do?
- Has Jesus been right in front of you, walking with you, but you have been unable to see him? We must remove distractions that are keeping us from seeing the Lord.
- We must set aside time to be still (Psalm 46:10), to read and pray, and to remain in the presence of God (John 15:4-11).
- His suffering, death, and resurrection were for a purpose. "He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- If you have been redeemed, restored, and resurrected (Romans 6:4-5), go and tell the good news!