

On the Emmaus Road

Luke 24:13-35

INTRO:

We read in Acts 1:1 - 3 ***“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*** One of these ***“infallible proofs”*** is found in the passage we are going to study. This is one of the many appearances of the Lord Jesus on the day that He rose from the dead.

As we come upon the scene, it is late in the day on the First Day of the week. It is the first Resurrection Sunday and two very confused disciples are walking home to Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they are walking and talking, an amazing thing happened to them.

I. The Disciples’ Unbelief (v. 13-24)

II. Our Lord’s Bible Conference (v. 25-27)

III. Our Lord’s Great Unveiling (v. 28-33)

I. The Disciples’ Unbelief (v. 13-24)

A. Two disciples walked along the Road to Emmaus. And as they walked, Luke wrote they also talked about the events of the last several days.

Luke 24:13-14 ***“Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.”***

We know from **verse 18** that one of the disciples’ names was Cleopas. We are not told who the second disciple was.

1. Cleopas was not one of the eleven disciples of the inner circle. He appears to be one of the extended group of disciples who followed our Lord's ministry.

2. As these two disciples talked, they talked about the Lord. Granted, the last several days had been very traumatic to these two. Still, they did engage in a spirited and a spiritual conversation about what all of this meant.

B. We are not always aware of the blessing we have to be able to speak to one another about the Lord. This is a very important way we can minister to one another in spiritual things. There is a very striking passage in **Malachi 3**.

Malachi 3:16-18 ***"Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. 'They shall be Mine,' says the Lord 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 you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him."***

God promises a special blessing to those who fear Him and who speak to one another about Him! Are we busy doing this?

C. ***"So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him."*** (vs.15-16)

Suddenly, Jesus joined them. These two forlorn disciples did not recognize Him. As they walked, Jesus inquired about what they were talking about.

v.17 ***"And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?'"***

Cleopas is first to respond

v.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?'"***

Are you a stranger to not have heard all the things that have taken place?

Remember that not only had Jesus heard about it, He Himself was the central figure in all that took place.

D. As we read this conversation, we need to feel the pain and disappointment behind it all.

vs. 19-24 *“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, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 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. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 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.’”*

There are three important observations we need to make here. **(1)** Their description of the Lord betrayed confusion about Who He was now that He had been crucified. Because events did not unfold as they expected, their confidence was shaken. **(2)** Second, they laid the responsibility for our Lord’s death squarely on the shoulders of the spiritual leadership of Israel. **(3)** Third, they misunderstood our Lord’s mission,

v.21 *“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.”*

The redemption they anticipated was not the redemption Jesus accomplished. They thought in terms of a physical deliverance from the oppression of Rome. They forgot about the suffering Savior Who would save His people from their sins.

II. Our Lord’s Bible Conference (v. 25-27)

Luke 24:25-27 *“Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”*

A. Jesus used this opportunity to teach His hurting disciples. His lesson started with a gentle rebuke and became a Bible conference to end all Bible conferences. Aren’t you thankful our Lord is patient with His disciples who did not understand?

B. He preached the greatest Bible Conference in history to teach these two disciples Christology 101. His introductory question is found in **verse 26**.

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

(Even though they did not call Him the Messiah, the Lord Jesus used this term in referring to Himself.) He then began an exposition which I wish I could have heard.

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

1. While this is all contained in one verse in the text, I am sure the conversation this verse summarized took up most of the seven mile journey.

2. What did Jesus say? He started with Moses. He probably began with the first prophecy in **Genesis 3:15** foreshadowing His suffering.

“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.”

He may have identified Himself with the offerings in the Law. He was the true lamb to which every daily offering pointed. He must have visited **Psalm 22** and its vivid description of crucifixion. Could **Isaiah 7:14**, **9:6**, and **53** been included? It must have been a breathtaking Bible exposition.

C. I love what these disciples said later when they finally recognized Who He really was.

v.32 ***“Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”***

III. Our Lord’s Great Unveiling (v. 28-33)

Luke 24:28-33 ***“Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 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. 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. Then their eyes were***

opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 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?' So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,"

A. Having ended His exposition and having arrived at Emmaus, Jesus is invited to eat with these two disciples. Jesus has accomplished His purpose in laying out to these two men the Biblical truth concerning His death. Now He is about to reveal Himself to them.

B. This was a dramatic moment. How did He show them Who He was? Some speculate that they saw the wounds in His hands. Others think there might have been something in His bearing or actions that revealed Him to them. The answer is in **verse 31**. Their eyes were opened supernaturally.

What do we learn here? What can we take from this?

First, Luke put this here so we would see Jesus was indeed risen from the dead. Here are two disciples who were distinctly predisposed to not believe. They heard the reports from the women who saw the empty tomb and the angels. They also heard how Peter and John had gone to the tomb and had seen that He was not there. Still, they refused to believe. Now, they saw Him with their eyes.

Second, Luke wanted us to understand that when Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again, it was not plan B. God always had a plan and it is His plan that is being carried out in history. The Father's plan was carried out in the death and resurrection of the Christ. His plan is being carried out in our lives today.

Finally, He wrote this so, like these disciples, our eyes would be open and we would see Who our Lord really is and embrace Him as our Savior and Lord!