

A Walk with the King

Luke 24:13-35

A time of great sorrow and darkness. A time when conflicting stories only add to the confusion. A time when all feel totally alone and have no control over the future. A time when it seems hope is gone and disappointment reigns supreme. A time when fear and doubt seem to have conquered all. Sound like today? Yes but also on Easter Sunday afternoon for those who could not understand what was going on – two walking away from the truth.

I. Lack of Comprehension

13-24

Two, Cleopas and one unnamed – let us say it was you or me
Road from Jerusalem to Emmaus – 11 Km - About 2 ½ - 3 hours by foot
Third day after the crucifixion of Christ (hope was gone for spirit only stayed 3 days)

A. Deep Sorrow

Sadness written on their faces
Discussed everything that had happened (focus totally on the past)

B. Disillusionment

Spoke of Christ in past tense – was ... they crucified him.
Despite what they knew, because of what they missed
His name – Jesus From Nazareth (He was born in Bethlehem)
He was a prophet, mighty in deeds, a teacher mighty in words (He was God)
BUT – leading priests handed him over to be condemned – He was crucified

C. Disappointment

We had hoped - That he was the Messiah (anointed one) to rescue Israel
Hope of freedom from political and oppressive Roman rule
We do not know what became of him
Women reported angels and empty tomb
Men found only empty tomb

II. A Show of Compassion

25-31

A. Jesus joined them on the wrong way

His identity was hidden from them (in contrast to most paintings with white robe and halo)
He let them explain the situation from their viewpoint

B. Jesus spoke to the heart of the matter

Foolish – word means intentional lack of understanding
Slow of heart – key issue was not their heads but their hearts

C. He taught them (word means carefully explaining or translating)

Key question “Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”

Taught about himself from writings of Moses, prophets and scriptures

We do not know exactly what He said but it could have included:

He told them that the Messiah was:

- The Seed of the Woman, whose heel was bruised. - The blessing of Abraham to all nations. - The High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.
- The Man who wrestled with Jacob. - The Lion of the Tribe of Judah. - The voice from the burning bush. - The Passover Lamb.
- The Prophet greater than Moses. - The captain of the Lord's army to Joshua. - The ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer mentioned in Ruth.
- The son of David who was a King greater than David. - The suffering Savior of Psalms 22. - The Good Shepherd of Psalms 23.
- The wisdom of Proverbs and the Lover of the Song of Solomon. - The Savior described in the prophets and the suffering Servant of Isaiah 53
- The Princely Messiah of Daniel who would establish a kingdom that would never end.

D. He became the guest that was really the host

He let them persuade Him to stay
He became the host breaking the bread and revealing who He really was.

III. Response of Celebration

32-35

Recognition of the effect of truth

Their hearts were kindled, indeed, ignited into hope, joy, happiness, and commitment to the living Savior.

Coolness gave way to heat and devotion. Despair to hope and confidence. Uncertainty to certainty. Dissatisfaction to satisfaction. Gloom to joy and enthusiasm. Fear to courage. Retreating to returning and faithfulness.

They had enough energy to run back to Jerusalem - Their desire was to tell the others

Conclusions we can draw from this encounter

- 1. Jesus cares about us even when we are discouraged and heading in the wrong direction*
- 2. Jesus cares enough to walk with us and listen to us*
- 3. Jesus uses the written Word to explain salvation*
- 4. Jesus never forces Himself on us but responds to our pleas*
- 5. Jesus reveals Himself to us as the Bread of life broken for us in sacrifice*

In these difficult times we see things more clearly

Howard Rutledge, a United States Air Force pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam during the early stages of the war. He spent several miserable years in the hands of his captors before being released at the war's conclusion. In his book, In the Presence of Mine Enemies, he reflects upon the resources he drew upon in those difficult days when life seemed so intolerable. During those longer periods of enforced reflection, it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis (his wife) had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded—she just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things. Now the sights and sounds and smells of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food soon out-did my hunger for a steak. Now I wanted to know about that part of me that will never die. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in Heartbreak (the name POWs gave their prison camp) and in solitary confinement there was no pastor, no Sunday School teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God.

Questions we need to ask ourselves

Am I intentionally ignoring the Word of God – headed in the wrong direction?

Do I know about Jesus Christ but have never had a personal encounter with Him?

Am I willing to allow Him to walk with me and speak to my heart?

Will I open my eyes to the risen Lord and share my joy with others?