

## The Road to Emmaus

### Introduction:

1. The New Testament records the fact of a number of Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus, including:
  - a. To Mary Magdalene, Mark 16:9-10.
  - b. To the other women, Matt. 28:9-10.
  - c. To two people on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35.
  - d. To Simon Peter, Luke 24:33-35; I Cor. 15:5.
  - e. To the disciples without Thomas, John 20:19-25.
  - f. To Thomas and the other disciples, John 20:26-31.
  - g. To the seven disciples at the Sea of Galilee, John 21.
  - h. To over 500 brethren, I Cor. 15:6.
  - i. To James, I Cor. 15:7.
  - j. To Saul of Tarsus, I Cor. 15:8.
2. There were probably more post resurrection appearances of Jesus, for He remained on the earth 40 days, showing Himself *“alive after His passion by many infallible proofs,”* during which time He spoke to His apostles of *“things pertaining to the kingdom of God,”* Acts 1:1-3.
3. This lesson is entitled *“The Road to Emmaus,”* based on Luke 24:13-35.
  - a. It has to do with the Lord’s appearance to two people who were walking from Jerusalem to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles in distance from Jerusalem to Emmaus.
    - (1) One of the people was named Cleopas, v. 18; the other was not named. Some have conjectured that the other person was the wife of Cleopas; others have conjectured that it was Luke; other names have been suggested.
  - b. They were walking, v. 17; thus, from that which occurred on this walk, some have entitled these verses as *“The Walk of a Lifetime.”*
    - (1) At least one person described their journey in these words: *“From heartache to heartburn,”* v. 17,32.
4. Read Text: Luke 24:13-35.

### Discussion:

#### I. Consider the Two People whom the Lord encountered.

- A. They were walking and talking, v. 14,17.
  1. They were talking about *“the things which had happened,”* v. 14.
    - a. Three days before Jesus was crucified; the sun was darkened; the veil of the temple had been rent in twain from top to bottom, etc.
    - b. They had been talking about *“Jesus of Nazareth,”* who was *“a prophet mighty in deed and word,”* v. 19, concerning Whom the chief priests and their rulers delivered to be condemned to death and crucified, v. 20.
      - (1) Observe: they did not blame Pilate or the Roman Government; they put the blame where it belonged.
- B. They were Sad, v. 17.
  1. As one person said, *“Sadness has a way of draining the life out of you.”*
  2. The Bible concurs with reference to the power of sadness: Prov. 12:25; 15:13; 18:14.
- C. Their Expectations had been crushed, v. 20-21.
  1. At least, as they perceived it!
    - a. They were expecting Jesus to *“redeem Israel,”* and to their way of thinking, He could not do this by being crucified upon a cross! They were thinking about physical deliverance; an earthly kingdom,.
- D. They were foolish and *“slow of heart to believe,”* v. 25.
  1. Slow of heart *“to believe **all** that the prophets have spoken,”* v. 25.
  2. Their problem was common to many people in the religious world; they had selective hearing!
    - a. Jesus emphasized of *“every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,”* Matt. 4:4.
- E. They were taught the truth, Luke 24:26-27.
  1. Their eyes were *“opened,”* v. 31.
    - a. Not only their natural eyes v, 16, but the eyes of their understanding. Cf. Eph. 1:18.
  2. This caused their hearts to *“burn within”* them, v. 32 – thus going *“from heartache to heartburn.”*
- F. They *“constrained”* Jesus to eat with them, v. 28-29.

- G. They became "Personal Evangelists!"
  - 1. They "rose up the same hour," returned to Jerusalem, "found the eleven gathered together," told them "the Lord hath appeared to Simon," and related "what things" the Lord had done in their midst, v. 33-35.

## II. The Two on the Road to Emmaus, in a sense, typify many people today.

- A. They are Sad when their expectations are crushed.
  - 1. Think about newlyweds when they discover heretofore unseen flaws in their mate.
  - 2. Think about college graduates, who can't find a job.
  - 3. Think about those who, with great confidence, started businesses, but were forced into bankruptcy.
  - 4. Think about religious people who:
    - a. Placed their trust in a "great religious leader," only to learn he is "a wolf in sheep's clothing."
    - b. Spent their lives in a religious body, only to learn that it is a false religion.
- B. They are foolish and slow of heart to "*believe all*" the word of God.
  - 1. Many readily believe the Scriptures about the love of God, but not the severity of God, Rom. 11:22.
  - 2. Many readily believe what the scriptures says about heaven, but refuse to believe there is a hell to shun.
  - 3. Many readily believe what the Scriptures say about grace and faith, but do not believe what it says about baptism.
- C. Many of these, like the two on the road to Emmaus, can be taught the truth!
  - 1. Sometimes, when this is done, their hearts "*burn*" within them.
  - 2. Through this process, their eyes can be "*opened*," v. 31.
- D. They are then ready to go and tell others about Jesus!
  - 1. Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:2; I Peter 3:15.

## III. In these Verses we also see Jesus.

- A. As a Sympathetic Stranger.
  - 1. As they walked and talked, Jesus drew near, and mentioned their sadness, v. 14-15,17.
  - 2. He is still sympathetic to us. Heb. 4:15-16.
- B. As a Great Teacher.
  - 1. One willing to give a sympathetic rebuke when needed, Luke 24:25..
  - 2. One Who stressed the divine need of His death, Luke 24:26.
    - a. As the Jewish leaders perceived it, Jesus had to die lest He gain too much popularity and cause their own popularity to be reduced.
    - b. As Jesus perceived it, **He** had to die so that **they** could be saved, Heb. 2:9; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 3:23-25.
  - 3. Jesus took them to Moses and to all the prophets, all of whom spoke of Him!
    - a. Cf. Luke 24:44; Matt. 5:17-18.
    - b. He could have mentioned:
      - (1) The promise in Genesis 3:15; Gal. 4:4.
      - (2) The promise in Genesis 12:3; Gal. 3:16, 29.
      - (3) The promise in Isaiah 7:14.
      - (4) The prophecy in Isaiah 53.
      - (5) The price of His betrayal, as foretold in Zechariah 11:12.
      - (6) The piercing of His hands and feet, Zech. 12:10.
- C. As a friendly guest, vs. 28-31, at which time:
  - 1. He shared a meal with Him, v. 30.
    - a. Though He was a guest, He took the lead at the table.
  - 2. He revealed Himself to them.
    - a. Their eyes were "*opened, and they knew Him*," v. 31.

## Conclusion:

- 1. If we will let Him, what Jesus was to the two on the road to Emmaus He can be to us; He can take us from sadness to joy; He can renew our expectations; through His word, He can be a great teacher, and if we do His will He promises to be "*with*" us, Matt. 28:20; Rev. 1:12-13.

--Bobby Witherington, November 15, 2015