**Pastor’s Post 4/19/2020**

 **A Walk Down A Country Road**

**A WALK DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD – Luke 24:13-36**

Verse 13 identifies the name of the village these two were walking to as Emmaus, a seven mile journey from Jerusalem, while Mark 16:12 tells us that it was in the country.

**RETURNING IN DOUBT & DESPAIR. 24:13-24.**

**V.18** identifies one of them as Cleopas and I believe the other person was his wife. Not just because v.29 lets us know they shared the same home, but because we read in **John 19:25 –** “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene.” So we know “Mrs.Cleopas” was in Jerusalem at this time.

**V. 16 -**They were in despair and doubt so Jesus didn’t reveal Himself to them. They didn’t have the eyes of faith. Notice in **v. 21** – “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel” They assume He is a stranger, which, spiritually, He really was to them. They are surprised, thinking even a strange had to have been aware of the recent crucifixion.

**REBUKE FOR DOUBTING &DESPAIR. 24:25, 26.**

“foolish ones” means without understanding or dull of understand. They didn’t believe *all* that the prophets had spoken. Jesus asks them “wasn’t the Christ supposed to suffer these things you mentioned, before He enters His glory?”

**REFRESHING BY REMINDING & REVIEWING THE SCRIPTURES. 24:27**

 **V.27=** “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” In **v. 44** we get a fuller picture of the Scriptures concerning Himself. “Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

This would be the entire Bible they had at that time, in other words, the Old Testament. The Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms (Songs) were the division of the Hebrew Bible. Jesus said “all things **must** be fulfilled.” In both verse 27 and 44 Jesus said these Scriptures concern Him; therefore, Christ is the fulfillment of Scripture! It is HE that all Scripture speaks of and it speaks of His sufferings and then entering into His glory! You will notice in verse 44 that Jesus said the things written of Him **must** be fulfilled. The sufferings of our Lord should not have surprised His disciples or any of the Jews who knew the Scriptures. When God says **it** **must be – it will be.** If you recall our Easter message last week in I Corinthians 15 where the Holy Spirit, through Paul, tells us that at the Rapture the believers who died and their bodies are in the grave, will have new bodies, as will the believers who are alive at Christ’s coming. Verse 53 says: “this corruptible **must** put on incorruption and this mortal **must** put on immortality” – **New bodies for a new life** for those who have placed their faith in Christ. That’s why it’s so important to heed the words of Christ in John 3:7 “You **must** be born again.”

Time does not permit us to take a full refresher course on the whole Old Testament, but let us consider some of the prophecies from the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms. The first promise of a Savior was in Genesis 3:15 when God said the Seed of Eve would have the victory over Satan. In Exodus 12 God establishes the Passover with Moses: the lamb is a picture of Christ: the lamb must be as perfect as it can be, no flaws; in its prime of life and sacrificed. The blood of the lamb is sprinkled on the door of every one who believes, at top and both sides, thus forming a cross, and the homes with the blood of the lamb escaped death. All were to partake of the lamb.

Isaiah, one of the prophets, is filled with types of Christ: Chapter seven tells of a son’s virgin birth identified as Immanuel, meaning “God with us” and in chapter nine we are told of a child that is born who is a Son that is *given* and He has the names of Deity such as Mighty God, Everlasting Father, that is “Father of Eternity,” the Prince of Peace.

We certainly can’t neglect chapter fifty-three which so vividly describes His death for us as “the Lord laid on HIM the iniquity of us all” and that He was wounded for **our** transgressions and bruised for **our** iniquities and the chastisement of **our** peace was upon Him. Yet the chapter concludes with Him being alive.

The prophet Micah tells of the place of His birth as Bethlehem in chapter five verse two, and that He is eternal, “His goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

So many of the Psalms are Messianic Psalms. Certainly we see the crucifixion of Christ in Psalm 22 with the cry of “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? It speaks of His hands and feet being pierced, His intense thirst and His garments being divided by some of His persecutors. Yet again, the Psalm concludes with Him alive and exalted.

This is just a sampling of the countless prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament.

**REVEALING HIMSELF TO DISCIPLES. 24:28-33**

**24:28, 29=** They finally reach Emmaus and their home, and Jesus appears to keep going but they constrained Him to come home with them because it’s near evening. Jesus was not pretending to keep going: if they had not constrained (urged) Him, He would have continued on. So Jesus went in to abide with them.

**24:30,31=** “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.” Normally, this is what Cleopas would do since Jesus was their guest. **But Jesus took the place of the Master, and as at that first communion, He broke the bread and gave to them. He took the place of Master and showed them He was their Risen Lord!**

**24:32=** “and they said to one another ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us while on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’”

Their eyes were opened after the Scriptures were opened to them. They had “spiritual heartburn.” Jesus opened the Word and their understanding and they opened their hearts to receive it.

**24:33-35=** So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the apostles and other disciples gathered together saying “ the Lord is risen indeed.” Then they told what happened to them on the road and how the Lord made Himself known to them in the breaking of bread.

I’m sure that after a seven mile walk they were tired when they arrived home, but they were revived! They had new life! When you have the Lord in your life you want to share the good news. You also want to fellowship with fellow-believers; they did both. They were not disappointed. **V.36= Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.”**

***Pastor***

***4/19/2020***