

"Realizing The Depth And Truth Of Jesus' Words"

We, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, have sorrows, confusion, disillusionments, and despair. It is our lot as fallen individuals, living among other fallen individuals. Yet, 1 Peter 1:6-9 is a great passage to realize the depth and truth of Jesus' words in John 20:29: "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." Some people need to "See" by way of proof and evidence. I thank God for divinely preventing those two downcast men from immediately seeing or recognizing Him, as it brought about a cementing of their faith and a radical transformation from sorrow to joy inexpressible and full of glory. And it is just that kind of transformation that turned the world upside down.

"Growth Usually Requires A Journey, And Journeys Take Time"



Jesus appears to His other disciples, removing all doubt that He was alive. Jesus had promised that He would show Himself to those who love Him (John 14:21), and this is exactly what He does on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24 is often seen as a model of the journey that Jesus makes with many

of us today, as He opens our eyes, points us to the Word, and reveals Himself along life's walk as the resurrected Savior and Lord. Christ shows up in the most unexpected places — in the wisdom of a stranger, in the breaking of bread and even in those moments when all hope seems lost. As Luke tells the story of the two despondent disciples on the road to Emmaus, we cannot help but identify with their pain. We, too, are pilgrims on a journey through life. We, too, despair of life's circumstances from time to time. We, too, lose heart when our expectations come to a tragic end. But remember, every trial is an opportunity to discover what God wants us to see. God, in His perfect discernment, did not allow the two disciples to recognize Jesus until the time was right. He didn't allow them to suffer in grief a moment longer than was absolutely necessary, yet He didn't end their discomfort too soon. Spiritual maturity rarely occurs instantaneously. Growth usually requires a journey, and journeys take time. Submit to God's will and trust His timing. He is faithful.

"The Road To Emmaus" (Luke 24:1-27)



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. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself

drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" 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?" And He said to them, "What things?" 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." 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.

"Their Eyes Where Opened" (Luke 24: 28-35)



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, saying, **“The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”** And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

“Truth Himself Walks Beside Us”



No doubt, Cleopas and his traveling partner struggled to reconcile the events they witnessed with the identity of the One they loved and thought they had lost forever. They genuinely desired answers; some sort of context to explain their own personal, why? They had a picture in

their minds. They knew what they saw, what they experienced, and this they tried to reconcile with their own presumptions regarding the coming Messiah. They exchanged meaningful, impassioned words, but until the Word Himself walked with them, their exchange only amounted to more confusion and despair. Especially, it seems, when they had to explain those painful events to that Unannounced Eavesdropper. There seems to be a bit of irony in their desperate search for truth, as Truth Himself walked beside them.

“The Answer Is Walking With Us”

For us, there is something precious in the picture of Christ walking with us in our darkest hour, which we cannot overlook. So often, as fleshly humans, we desire an answer when His desire is that we have the answer—Himself. He knows what is required for us to reach that place of joy and peace in Him. What an example we have in the road to Emmaus account: “For where two or three gather in My Name, there Am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

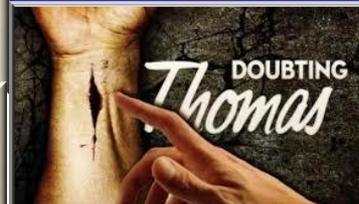
“The Word Explains It All”



Beginning with Moses, to the Prophets and the Psalms, we find Him: The Alpha the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. If you seek Him throughout His Word, the Lord God, will be found by you. What the natural eye cannot see, the Spirit will surely reveal. Here is what they could not see; that the Messiah must

suffer and die before He could enter into His glory. Though sorrow is for a night, there is joy in the morning, and those two downcast disciples needed to see and live that truth. Through their pain, they could not see that Jesus’ suffering would translate into their eternal joy. I believe the Lord, in His grace and mercy, prevented them from recognizing Him so they would have the opportunity to see with real clarity. They needed to understand by way of His recounting of the Scriptures concerning Himself. Truly, had He immediately revealed Himself to them, it would have been obvious that He was risen indeed. However, it was imperative that they first see with their hearts and minds before recognizing Him with their natural eyes. Since our Lord’s desire is for us to share Him with others through His Word and not His physical body, that is what they needed to see first. They needed to see Jesus the Messiah, foretold throughout the Scriptures.

“Trusting Him Without Sight”



In John 20:29 Jesus said to Thomas, another disciple who needed a bit of clarity, **“Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”** It is the weaning of the child dependent upon the mother always being in clear, physical view. When the child learns to trust their mothers’ promised return, they feel free to play peacefully in another room. They know she is there even though they cannot see her. They trust she will respond when needed. They freely and joyfully go about their busy play. They trust without sight. Perhaps



those men needed to trust the Word, from Moses to the Prophets and the Psalms, before relying upon His physical presence for evidence to His identity, purpose, and glory. For soon, that was exactly what they would need to teach others to do, to trust Him by His Word not the manifesting of His body.