

The Road to Emmaus

This article studies Luke 24:13-35 and has Bible cocoons which have a rich message. It will be taken a few verses at a time.

“And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.” Luke 24:13-15

These two men, Thomas and Cleopas were walking by foot a distance of about 7 ½ miles from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. This was about a 2 ½ hour journey. They were discussing Jesus and what had befallen him. Jesus himself drew near. The verse said that he ‘went with them’. This was because they allowed it. It is important that we *allow or permit* Jesus to join into our travels through life and into our conversations. It would be wise for our conversations to be such that the inclusion of Jesus as a guest would blend in. We might note that apparently there was nothing unique about his mannerisms, or apparel that would have suggested that he was a king. We can make notice of two things here:

These two men were walking along discussing Jesus and see what happened? “Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.” Is there value in gathering together and discussing Jesus? Apparently if you and someone discuss Jesus in a meaningful way Christ enters into the discussion if you allow it. In corporate worship we attempt to dwell upon Jesus and our relationship with Him. Notice how refreshed you often feel afterwards?

Prior to his resurrection, Jesus wore ordinary garments and since He doesn’t change it is natural that even after having been resurrected he should still be in an ordinary wardrobe. Let these thoughts remain with you as you ponder how Jesus would appear upon His reappearance. Would you accept him in blue jeans and tennis shoes?

Malachi:3:6 For I am the LORD, *I change not*; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
James:1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, *with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*.

Luke:24:16 *But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.*

It is interesting to note that Jesus appeared to them in *another form* than what they were accustomed to as we see in the following verse from the gospel of Mark:

Mark:16:12 After that he appeared *in another form* unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

Jesus appeared to them in *another form*, His spiritual body:

There is another aspect of this to be considered. The word *holden* is an archaic word that means *restrained*. Possibly that in order to accomplish a purpose; God had restrained their eyes

for a season in order to accomplish something. Additionally, this body which could suddenly appear and disappear may have had characteristics which made him difficult to recognize. In verse 32 we read that “And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.” As they journeyed they “communed together and reasoned.” Jesus wanted to enter into their *reasoning*. In the verses to follow we see how he “expounded upon them in all the scriptures concerning himself.” What would have happened if they immediately recognized him when he approached? I imagine that they would have been so beside themselves with excitement that their *reasoning* about him would have been forgotten. It was important that they properly understood that Jesus had fulfilled scriptural prophecies pertaining to himself. This needed their undivided attention on the discourse, not on his presence. Reader this has no doubt happened to you and may even be in process as you read this. There are great and wonderful things you wish to know. There are spiritual heights you wish to obtain. Could it be that for a brief season your eyes and your understanding are *holden* in order to enable you to properly understand at some near future time? Upon occasion I have reread a verse of scripture which I had read many times only to have the verse leap out at me and me grasp the significance of it for the first time. I would have an “AHA ...now I see it!” type of moment. It may have taken a lot of living and undergoing of experiences to prepare my receptivity to the point of enlightenment. If you have spiritual aspirations for knowledge, loyalty, devotion and communion which seem to elude you don’t despair. Just keep on living. Quite possibly the Lord is allowing you to undergo experiences, which is fine-tuning your receptivity. All in good time you will receive that spiritual victory you seek.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

The narrative continues:

“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which 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 have crucified him. *But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:* and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.” Luke 24:17-24

Notice what the men had expected. They had expected that Jesus would redeem Israel. Actually he had, but their thinking apparently was centered in the political arena. He had said “My kingdom is not of this world” But there had nevertheless been an expectation that Jesus would free Jerusalem from Roman occupation. This was the *reasoning* of theirs which had gone astray.

“Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:25-27

When Christ forbade us to say to one another ‘*thou fool*’ I believe it was intended to prevent us from reproaching people unreasonably, but reproof when it is needed is helpful. Apparently Jesus had bonded with them as they walked, because such a remark in this day and age would have been insulting. That which was foolish was their being *slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken*. Let’s look at verse 25 from the Amplified New Testament:

Luke 24:25 And [Jesus] said to them, O foolish ones [sluggish in mind, dull of perception] and slow of heart to believe [adhere to and trust in and rely on] everything that the prophets have spoken!

Note also, Jesus rebukes those and chastens those that He loves:

Revelation:3:19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

Notice the importance that Jesus put upon their understanding that point for point all of the prophecies of scripture had been fulfilled. Prior to his resurrection upon many occasions he would say or do things to insure that the prophecies were fulfilled:

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but *to fulfil*. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, *till all be fulfilled*.” Matthew 5:17-18

“Now all this was done, *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying...*” Matthew 1:22

“..And was there until the death of Herod: *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.*” Matthew 2:15

“I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: *but the scriptures must be fulfilled.*” Mark 14:49

“Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all *be fulfilled.*” Luke 21:32

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, *that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.* Luke 24:44

There are many more verses such as these and I have only listed a few of them.

“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.” Luke 24:28

“But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.” Luke 24:29

This is *most important!* Jesus stayed with them because of their forceful invitation for him to come into their house and stay with them through the night. Reader notice that Jesus is not pushy. He goes where he is welcome. He ‘made as though he would have gone further’. Two things are taking place here in my opinion: They were exercising hospitality to a stranger. The roads are dangerous at night and they concerned themselves with his safety and comfort. They apparently had bonded in fellowship with him and with the scripture. No doubt they hoped for a continuing discourse. It had been refreshing and enlightening to them. Probably they hated to see it end. Perhaps you have attended a conference, a revival, or a study group and reached a bonding and elevating of your spiritual mood and been swimming in the elevated experience only to afterwards see the fire in your heart slowly diminish. Don’t you hate it when that happens? I do. They did the right thing. They *‘constrained him saying’*. The constraint was done with words. Reader, when your spiritual fires are dying down and the light in your joy is toward evening, with words pray **“Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Lord I have enjoyed your fellowship; I do not wish you to pass from my presence.”** Sincerely do this, and He will come in and tarry with you. Imagine, they had been shoulder to shoulder with the risen Lord for over 2 hours discussing scripture. Reader, so have you. Don’t let the fellowship come to a close.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelations 3:20

“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. **And their eyes were opened, and they knew him**; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?** And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.” Luke 24:30-35

I would have liked to have been either Cleopas or Thomas and had that evening meal with Jesus. Imagine our risen Lord blessing bread and breaking it for us. However, we don’t have to imagine it. We may partake of it as often as we wish. We notice that at this point *their eyes were opened, and they knew him*. The upgrade to their knowledge and understanding had been accomplished. They were enabled to recognize that He who had given discourses to them was Jesus. They remarked *“Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”* Reader, if your heart burns within you as scripture is opened to you be glad. Anyone can earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit to place *the love of God* in their soul. As they receive this love, the love of God, they may be aware of the same ‘heart burning within us’ that the disciples experienced. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to place the love of God, into the souls of those who earnestly desire it:

Romans:5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because **the love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts **by** the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.

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