

The Road to Emmaus - Luke chapter 24, verse 13 – 35:-

The testimony of the women who first saw the Risen Lord was not believed by the apostles as a group – see Luke chapter 24, verses 10 – 11. (I wonder about John? - see John chapter 20, verse 8. Was he too young to have much influence or was he still debating if it was true?).

We have no record of that first Easter Day until the afternoon as two of the disciples walk (back home?) to Emmaus. The distance is estimated at about 7 miles (60 stadia).

Verses 13 – 16:-

Again there was no recognition of the stranger who came up to them on the road. The problem appears to have been with their eyesight. *“their eyes were kept from recognising Him.”*

Verses 17 – 24:-

“They stood still”. The beginning of the discussion with this ‘stranger’ is important. The surprise of the two disciples that this stranger appears to be ignorant of events. The Lord, appearing as a stranger, puts the onus on them to initiate the conversation. It is important to know where our hearers are at before we begin any detailed explanation of the Gospel.

Verses 25 – 27 :-

The stranger shows himself to have a very deep understanding of the Old Testament scriptures - *“and beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”* (Luke 24, verse 27). Christ’s detailed teaching shows how the entire Old Testament, Law, Prophets, and Writings pointed toward the Messiah’s suffering and subsequent glory. This hermeneutical key underlines the unity of Scripture, affirming that all divine revelation culminates in Jesus.

Verses 28 – 32:-

The offer of hospitality opens up the possibility of deepening the relationship with this stranger! Again it is the familiar actions of the Lord Jesus which opens the disciples eyes. He assumed the role of the host *“took the bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him”*. (Luke 24, verses 30 and 31). Their immediate reaction ‘we should have known when He was teaching us from the scriptures’!

Verses 33 – 35:-

It was another 7 miles back to Jerusalem in the dark for these two disciples! Maybe they were expecting to break the news to the others. When they arrived they found that it was common knowledge but they brought one more confirmation of the truth -

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***“But better still to pause;
Be still and remember;
That our incarnate Lord once walked
The roads of Galilee.
And still He walks with us
On this our daily pilgrimage through life.”***

(From “Pilgrimage to Santiago” © T. Brighton 2010)