

Easter – After the Resurrection – 2 - On the road to Emmaus:-

Gospel of Luke chapter 24, verses 13 – 35

This is a very human story told in uncomplicated language! Having in mind the previous two Bible Studies, remember that there was no certain realisation of the resurrection when Cleopas and his companion left Jerusalem. The women had been to the tomb and come back with a story of angels and an empty grave! That the tomb was empty was confirmed by the visit to it of Peter and John (see the Gospel of John chapter 20, verses 1 – 10). This was all the information the two had when they left Jerusalem, maybe to go home? Emmaus was given as seven and a half miles from Jerusalem. (sixty stades = 60 furlongs).

Verse 18 – Cleopas:- was possibly the one mentioned in John chapter 19, verse 25 as the husband of one of the Marys. The two are possibly husband and wife and if so Mary would have been a witness to the crucifixion.

The events of the first Palm Sunday and the teaching of the Lord Jesus in public between then and his arrest should have been well known.

Verses 19 – 24:- Notice that at this point the disciples were regarding the Lord Jesus Christ as “*a prophet mighty in word and deed . . .*” (verse 19). Many of them had not yet recognised him as the Lord. (compare with Gospel of John chapter 20, verses 24 – 29). They were disillusioned! They had expected Jesus to usher in the Messianic Kingdom but the situation now seemed hopeless.

Yes, there was the strange story told by ‘the women’ and the experience of Peter and John but “*him they did not see.*” remember that at this point the Lord Jesus Christ was there with them on the road! But him they did not see!

Verses 25 – 27:- The teaching of the Lord Jesus put the whole of scripture into the context of his life, death, resurrection and ascension. The history of the People of God from the verdict made after the Fall (see Genesis chapter 3, verses 14 – 15) to its fulfilment on the Cross of Calvary is the working out of the salvation of mankind. All the scriptures point to the coming of the Saviour and there are many prophecies that only need the interpretation of the Lord Jesus Christ himself to be fully understood.

Verses 28 – 32:- The open hospitality of the couple gave the opportunity for the ‘breaking of bread’ together. The familiar actions and words of the Lord meant that “*their eyes were opened and they recognized him*”. (verse 31). ‘Of course! That’s who it was, we should have known!’

Verses 33 – 35:- The hasty return to Jerusalem in the darkening evening and the meeting with the disciples follows. The couple from Emmaus can confirm what the others had already heard - “*they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of bread*”

“Alleluia! Christ is Risen! - He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!”

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.

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