

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32)

Lord, you are the Resurrection and the Life. By your victory over the grave you give us the promise of an eternal future with you. In our times of confusion and doubt, we ask that you would come to walk with us. Reveal yourself to us as you did to your disciples long ago, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

After the seeing their Lord put to death on the cross, two disciples were heading home in sadness and disappointment. But a stranger met them along the way, and talked with them about all that had happened. Little did they know the stranger was the risen Jesus himself!

Read: Luke 24:13-35

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

On the third day, when Jesus’ followers went to the tomb, they found it empty. Each of the Gospel writers tells the story of Jesus’ resurrection from a different angle, focusing on the message of the empty tomb fulfilling Jesus’ promise that he would rise again.

Only in Luke’s account do we get today’s additional interlude, in the story of Jesus’ encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. We get a glimpse into the defeat and dejection Jesus’ followers must have felt in the hours after his death. In their grief they were blinded to the truth of Jesus’ promise, that death and the grave could not contain him. He was alive!

After this, the living Jesus appeared to many of his followers over a period of 40 days before he ascended into heaven.

Discussion Questions

1. The verses just prior to this lesson tell the story of the women finding the empty tomb and the angel’s message that Jesus had risen. Did the travelers know this information? Why did they not believe it?
2. From what they say in the text, how would you describe the thoughts and emotions of the two disciples on the road? Why do you think they didn’t recognize Jesus?
3. How did Jesus respond to what the two travelers said to him (v. 25-26)? Do you hear this as words of judgment or as sympathetic understanding?
4. Jesus said that what had happened in Jerusalem was “necessary.” Necessary for what? Was this the only way it could have happened? Explain.
5. When Jesus shared supper with the travelers, Scripture says, “He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them...” (v.30). What do these words remind you of? How does Jesus come to *us* in the “breaking of the bread”?
6. What did the two disciples mean when they said, “Did not our hearts burn within us ... ?” (v. 32)? What were they feeling? Has the story of Jesus ever made you feel that way?
7. Do you think the travelers were surprised by what they heard when they returned to Jerusalem? Why did they believe it now?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Paul says here that if it were not for Jesus’ death and resurrection, we would have no hope for a future life. Why is Jesus at the heart of the promise we have of eternal life?