

## Road to Emmaus Cornerstone 4/6/00

Get the feel for what is happening here. You know Jesus had a lot more followers than the twelve. Two of them are on their way out of Jerusalem. Now they are walking away from the 11 remaining disciples and others, so I wonder if they are on their way back to whatever they did before they met Jesus. After all, He's dead! The last few days had seen their hopes and dreams dashed to pieces. Has that ever happened to you? Now lets listen in on the conversation – Lk 24 starting in verses 13 – 16.

Has that ever happened to you? I guarantee it has. You just didn't recognize Him. He was in your friend, your teacher, your parent. Now don't think – oh you mean in their heart, like its not the same as what happened to these two men. He's as real and as powerful – as wise and as loving in a person yielded to Him as He was on that road. You are just kept from recognizing Him. Just like these guys – you can't see Him but He's there. The once dead, now alive forever, conqueror of Death and Hell, King of the universe, your Creator has walked and talked with you. But you usually know when the Lord was speaking to you through that friend. You just didn't take it as real as it is. Next time you get that check in the Spirit that the Lord just spoke to you through your friend or the Word as you read it – think about these two men and Jesus right beside them.

Verse 17-20 But we hoped... They hoped Jesus would redeem Israel in a physical way, but He did something a million times greater than that, He redeemed all who would come to Him by faith through out time. He conquered the up until then undefeated enemy of man throughout time – death. He ripped the prison bars of Hell right out of the wall and rapped that ol' Serpent the Devil upside the head with 'em, and said, "These prisoners are free, bought and paid for with my blood. You can only have the ones that wont accept the gift of my atoning blood – THAT'S ALL you get PERIOD! Understand? And the defeated foe, angry as sin, but shaking in his socks – said "yes Lord of lords and King of kings."... "And we hoped He would redeem Israel" Now do you see how funny these two downcast brothers are? It's like saying, I was hoping to win a free day pass to the Snow Bowl - when in reality you got a month long round the world cruise. HELLO! You know what? We are just like these guys.

How many times have you been disappointed and later the realized the Lord spared you from something that could have been horrible and gave you something much better later? Sometimes we don't see it, or don't pay attention but if you do – you'll see it all the time. He loves you so much He isn't going to give you what you are hoping for. He is going to give you something a million times better. They were hoping for physical freedom from the taxes of the Roman Empire and a restored king of the line of David. Instead Jesus gives them

a seat with Him at the helm of the universe. Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Don't be disappointed when you don't get the physical things you were expecting. Look at the spiritual reality of what is really happening and that God has something much greater in mind for you. If He withholds your request, it is because He loves you and has something much better. Don't doubt his love because of some physical thing, whether illness or lack of material blessing, or even lack of apparent need. Sometimes through the darkest times – like Cleopas and friend were having – something wonderful is happening in the unseen realms.

You don't think that is as real as the physical – ha! It is forever and this stuff you can see is passing away. Your house will be old in 30 years, your car in five, your computer in one, and that boyfriend or girlfriend maybe the old one next week. Don't get all wrapped up in the material world. A person's life isn't made up of what he has in the physical – but Who he knows in the spiritual. Lay up your treasures in heaven. How big is your heavenly treasure chest?

Lets go back to Cleopas and friend verses 22-24 Now wait a minute. Jesus already told them after He rose from the dead to meet him in Galilee. The women told them the angel said to meet Him in Galilee. These guys are going the wrong direction. How many clues do you guys need? Sometimes the Lord gives a bunch. We read it in the Bible, the HS gives us a check in the Spirit, and we head for Emmaus. But that has never been any of you. Right? Where are you going right now? I sure hope it is to Galilee and not to Emmaus.

Verses 25-27 OW! Rebuke time. Jesus says, Come on guys, aren't you in the Word. How come it takes so much for you to believe. Look at that word "all" in verse 27. Did you know your whole Old Testament is about Jesus? He shows up in prophecy, He shows up physically, and He shows up in types and shadows. He is everywhere in the Old Testament. Pick an Old Testament character -... How come we are so slow to see that everything is about Jesus, because it is Jesus that pleases the heart of the Father.

Verses 28- 31 Don't you want to be with someone who knows the Word? When they show you in Scripture what is going on its so exciting and you just want to hang out with them and glean bits of insight. These guys were hungering and thirsting for the Word and they didn't want Jesus to leave, even though they did not know who He was, they knew He knew the Word. So they say, Don't go, have dinner with us, anything to keep Him around. Is that how you feel? Is that how you are toward the HS, because He is the One who illuminates the Word. He can show you Jesus in ALL the Scriptures. Are you hanging with Him?

See what happened when He broke the bread? Oops, as He passed the bread they saw the nail holes. Suddenly their eyes are open. You know, sometimes

we have to see the nail holes before we recognize Him. See those love scars made for you? Then you can recognize Him. We recognize Him in communion. When He passes the bread, our eyes are opened. The bread is his body that He gave for the life of the World. Christ in our brothers and sisters causes them to do the same and walk around as living sacrifices, giving up their own way, dying to their own desires so the resurrected Lord can use their body as broken bread to minister to a needy world. Are your eyes open yet? See their sacrifice? Now are your eyes opened?

Verse 32 –34 Let Him open the Scriptures to you. When you sit down to feed on the Word, pray for Him to open your understanding. As He does you will feel what these men felt. It's for today! Not just back then. It happens everyday all over the world. People sit down before the word and as He opens the Scriptures, their hearts burn within them. Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your Law.

Now - they are going the right way. Once you meet Him and He shows you the Word, you decide to obey what He already told you. They are headed back toward Galilee, back to serve the Master. It is true! He has risen! What does that mean to you? To me it means I don't have to fear death. I don't have to worry about my loved ones that have died that knew Jesus as Savior and Lord. It means He can walk and talk with me. It means He can tell me what to share with you. And then the living Lord Jesus can help me share it. He's alive! Will you let Him live through you today? Will you get His direction for your life, let Him open the Scripture to you, and go where He is leading you to go? Or are your sights set on something else – We hoped that He would redeem Israel. He has a whole lot more in mind for you than that? He wants to really live in you!