

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

April 28, 2019

Their Eyes Were Opened

LUKE

Luke 24:13-35

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us^[1] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" **Luke 24:27-32**

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Luke is the only place in the Bible where we find this captivating story where belief in Jesus as our risen Lord was not evident even to his earliest followers. We only learn the name of one of the two characters, Cleopas, and we know that these two were disciples, though not part of the original eleven.

It seems amazing to us that these two men do not recognize Jesus just three short days after He was crucified, even though it is the very thing they are discussing when they encounter Him. They lament their hope that Jesus would have been the one to redeem Israel. Jesus responds not by revealing his identity, but pointing to scripture. ***How does the behavior of these two give us insight into the state of mind of Jesus' followers since His crucifixion? Why do you think Jesus pointed to scripture instead of letting them know who He was?***

As Jesus turns to go, they invite Him to stay with them even though they do not yet realize who He is. Jesus then offers hospitality to them by breaking bread, and it is at this point that their eyes are opened to Him. It wasn't Jesus' teaching nor his mere presence that ultimately opened their eyes, but the breaking of bread at an ordinary table. ***How has Jesus walked alongside you even when you have not recognized Him? How can we pay more attention to our own hearts burning with the presence of Jesus in our lives?***

After they share a meal, we see that Jesus immediately disappears from their sight. ***How do you think this experience with Jesus helped these men to "reset" with a new story that ends not in the crucifixion but in resurrection?***

As Martin Luther explains, "We cannot believe by our own reason or strength; it is by the Holy Spirit that one comes to believe." ***Just as it took Jesus' appearing to people for them to believe in Him, how can we continue to live by faith even after we have witnessed Jesus?***

Dear Heavenly Father,

Too often our hearts burn within us because our bodies know before our minds that you are here working in us and through us in this world. Open our eyes, and help us to recognize you in all places and in all people, for the sake of the one whose presence is never far, Jesus Christ. Amen.