

Mark 16 9-20

Luke 24 13-35 Part 2

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Remember how last week we looked at the men on the Emmaus road. We had an 8 point outline that I borrowed from Mike's sermon on the topic.

We covered:

- 1- Jesus reveals Himself in the everyday routine
- 2- Jesus enjoys a sense of humor
- 3- Jesus uses the opportunity to instruct

We hope to cover the rest of these this morning:

- 4- Jesus brings clarity to the sincerely confused followers
- 5- Opportunity to fellowship with Jesus leads to greater opportunity
- 6- An encounter with Christ stirs up passion
- 7- The results of a sincere encounter with Christ
- 8- The difference in the Resurrected Christ

So let's jump right into point 4

- 4- Jesus brings clarity to the sincerely confused followers

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Last week we watched as Christ rebuked these believers. He said that their problem was that they were slow to believe what the Bible said. Isn't it beautiful that this did not disqualify them from being corrected again? Doesn't that give us hope? As long as we will humble ourselves, as long as we will admit that **the problem between us and God**, the problem between **what we are** and **what we should** be is US, as long as we are willing to confess that it is we who are the

sinner, Christ will continue to teach us, even after our greatest failures. And sometimes **because** of our greatest failures we are most willing to listen. These two hikers had a misunderstanding of scripture. It isn't that they didn't believe it at all. They believed what they wanted it to say, not what it really said. They believed some of it, but not all of it. They liked the parts that fit with their world view of the Jews being God's people politically and that God was going to redeem them politically. What they did not focus on is that all humans, Jews included, are by birth, rebels against God. Their greatest need is spiritual. And the greatest gift would be spiritual redemption. Christ didn't come to fulfill their political aspirations. He came to meet their spiritual need.

There is a lot for us to learn here. All of us can create a long list of things we expect from God that He has no intentions of fulfilling. And He is not going to apologize for that oversight. He won't say, "My bad, sorry I missed that." Think about this. What unrealistic expectation of Christ do you hold this morning? Where are you expecting Him to do what He never promised to do? I can guaranty you, that expectation is going to be a source of disappointment and discouragement and even anger or dismay until you surrender it to the Lordship of Christ. It needs to be called what it is. It is a lie. And the word of God must correct it.

God does not promise to do a number of things we might expect Him to do on this planet. He doesn't promise to make us rich. He doesn't promise to keep us safe from suffering. He doesn't promise to fix everything that is wrong with our spouses or children. He doesn't promise to make spiritual victory quick or easy or even permanent in this life. What makes you miserable? Why? Trace it back. What are you wrongly expecting God to do? Take that thought captive. Replace it with truth.

That is the ministry Christ is doing to the two hikers this morning. He is taking these followers Messianic expectations and He is replacing them with the truth from God's Word. These guys appear to have been **sincere**. They were **wrong**. And they were **humble**. So all Christ needs to do is show them the truth and they will move on it.

Oh that God's ministry **to us** would be that easy. It doesn't take much. Just a sincere desire for the truth and the humility to accept it as we need to.

When Christ was done with these guys, their frustration and gloom turned to Joy. That is what happens when we allow our expectation of God to be replaced by belief in the promises of God.

Now on to point 5

Opportunity to fellowship with Jesus leads to greater opportunity

²⁸ **Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.** ²⁹ **But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide**

with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

Follow these hikers and what you find is that **what they are** oozes out of them. That is how life is. What we are finds expression. When Christ joins these guys, they are talking about Jesus. While He walks with them they are learning about Jesus. Now comes a normal break point. This stranger says he wants to continue on. Now these guys had an easy out. If they wanted this conversation over so they could move on to what they really wanted to do, here is their chance. But that is not what they do. They want it to keep going. They started with an obsession with Christ and everything they do wants to prolong this fellowship. They are doing what spiritual people do. They didn't have spiritual things relegated to a calendar and a day of the week. Their lives were absorbed with knowing Christ. So when the fellowship with this spiritual expert seems threatened to end, they prolong it. They find a way to keep it going. Odds are these guys need to work the next morning. But it doesn't matter. They want more and it is worth anything to them.

When all we want is Jesus, Jesus is what we will have. What do we want? Really? Would we have prioritized a discussion by this man like they did? Remember now that Jesus was doing all the talking. He was treating these guys like they were novices. It isn't like these guys are getting a chance to show off how wise and spiritual they were. Jesus was talking and they were lapping up what this stranger is saying like it is water in the desert.

What is there in our lives that we pursue like that? What is there that when we get a little of it we simply must have more? What are we scanning every environment we walk into for? What are we hoping to see so that we can gravitate toward it?

There is a general truth in human behavior. We pursue what we want. When I met Carla at Rockford Ill, in a few weeks it was very clear what I wanted. I wanted to marry that girl. Anyone looking on would not have had any trouble understanding that fact. The things I thought about, the things I said, and the things I did took on a congruence that showed that I was not going to stop until she either told me to hit the road or she said "I do".

That is how we are about what we want. Well, not everything we want has a guaranteed result. But when what we want is God, there is a guaranteed result.

James 4:7-10

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Luke 11:9-13

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

When we look back on periods in our lives, or when we look at our lives now, and what we find is a life that is not consumed with God, it is not God's fault. There is no excuse we can use other than God is not really what we want the most. We will find that we are double minded. We want the world and we want God. But when we are double minded, we will always gravitate toward the here and now. According to God's promises, when God is what we want, God is what we get. It is only **our** fault that we remain ignorant of or distracted away from the things of God.

These hikers wanted more of Jesus and they got more of Jesus. They started with a little fellowship and they ended having more fellowship and a greater revelation of who Christ really is and what He really wants.

Next point

6- An encounter with Christ stirs up passion

³⁰ **Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"**

So here is Christ. He still has not revealed who He is to these guys. He has taken possession of how their minds perceive Him. He has remained psychologically cloaked. It is kind of like a science fiction movie.

Now remember the circumstance. These guys are showing this stranger hospitality. They probably had to come home because they had to work. So now they are eating after their long hike. Now I wonder if these guys had ever ate with Christ before. It is likely that they did since they were intimately aware of what went on with the apostles. So Christ took the bread and prayed over it. Then Christ gave it to them.

Now, why would Christ chose this moment to reveal Himself to them? I think it is in relation to communion along with the common act of eating together. Christ told the apostles, this is my Body that is broken for you. Take and eat. Maybe these guys knew that had happened.

All we knew for sure is that they finally saw Christ for who He really was. You know, a lot of people know facts about Jesus. They have read truths about Jesus. They may even understand truths about Jesus. But until Jesus reveals Himself to you through His Spirit and His Word, you never really know Him. In our story, Christ first revealed Himself through the Word. Then Christ opened the hiker's eyes to see the stranger's true identity. And then Christ was gone.

Wow. You talk about a mind blowing experience. These guys are never going to forget that moment.

³² **And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"**

The word for burn means to set fire to, to light, to glow, to burn, to greatly move. This is what happens to Christians when they come face to face with truth. Tell me, is this not what happens to you when you read your Bible? The Holy Spirit grips you with the truths held in those words. Your world opens up in front of you. The mundane humdrum gives way to the eternal reality. You see **God** from a new perspective. You see **Christ** from a new perspective. You see **day to day life** from a new perspective. And what happens? There is a fire in your soul. You can't explain it. But you know it is there. The word burns a hole in your heart. It warms your soul. That is one of the best evidences that you are a Christian. This does not happen to those who don't know Christ. They might have lots of experiences. But the truth, as clearly understood from scripture, does not warm their hearts.

I like this quote.

" Understanding Bible knowledge can lead to a "big head" ([1 Cor. 8:1](#)), but receiving Bible truth and walking with the Saviour will lead to a burning heart.

Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - New Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1.

I am not one to lean on the experiential. I know the dangers of that. I test what I feel against what God says. But at the same time I know there are times in my life when I have experienced God's truth. And I knew it because my heart burned.

Now you may **experience it your own way**. Your experience may be nothing like mine. But for whatever reason when this happens to me I cry. It has been that way as long as I can remember. It is stupid. And I don't like it. But that is how it is. I would often cry when Mike would preach. I remember going to a Keith Green concert and I cried through most of it. The Holy Spirit was working on me. My heart burned within me. I didn't even like the piano or Keith's voice. But my heart was on fire as I listened. There are times when I listen to solid preachers and the same thing happens.

A believer is wired that way. When we come across clear declarations of the glory of Jesus Christ, our hearts burn. Praise God for that. That is evidence of your

salvation. Our passion is stirred up when we come face to face with the reality of Jesus Christ. There is something different about that truth. It does something to us that nothing else of this world does.

Do you not feel the same thing when you read your Bible? Does it not leave you with the feeling of, "Why don't I do this more?" Doesn't it give peace to your soul? Doesn't it touch the deep things inside you? That is what the Holy Spirit does to believers when they come in contact with truth. Our passions are stirred in the best way possible.

Now, the next point

7 The results of a sincere encounter with Christ

³³ **So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together,** ³⁴ **saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"** ³⁵ **And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.**

This is almost funny. These guys have just walked 2 hours, presumably because they had deadlines to meet. They left Jerusalem in the middle of an ongoing mystery with data coming in by the minute. So their reason for returning home when they did must have been pretty important. Now they pack back up and within an hour they are back on the road. I assume that if they had cell phones they probably would have just made a call. But they didn't so they walked another 2 hours after supper in order to report what they had seen.

Now what they had seen wasn't exactly a minor event. They didn't know all the eye witness reports coming back to the disciples. But what they did know is that **they have seen Christ** and they have a **very clear understanding now** of the **purpose** of Christ's incarnation, death burial and resurrection. That is about the most important New Testament news a person could imagine.

Now, I wonder how they felt when, before they could even tell **their** story others were saying that "The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon!" Were they disappointed? That would be as human as human can be. We don't know. Maybe they were glad because really, the story they are about to tell would be very hard to believe if there weren't some other stories verifying the truth of it. The results of Christ's talk with these hikers was that **first**, they held what they heard in highest priority. They were not even willing to let this truth go through the night without telling others about it.

Second, they were certain that Jesus Christ was Messiah and Lord. There was no doubt about it to these guys. They believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. They believed the true purpose of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. They got it. After having talked to Christ, these guys were true blue New Testament sold out believers. They did not even consider the inconvenience of a two hour walk

toward evening after being already tired from traveling, as something worthy of notice. That is what happens when people really come into relationship with Christ. When we truly encounter Christ, things are changed.

I think it is interesting that the hikers made mention of the breaking of the bread. I think that held significance to them based on Christ's last supper.

These 2 hikers have had a sincere experience with Christ. They went from those who were **skeptical of core doctrines** to those who were absolutely convinced of the truth of the core doctrines. They went from guys returning home in dismay to those walking back to Jerusalem in joy and victory. They went from the **gloom of defeat** to the **joy of victory**, and they were never going to go back from where they were. This experience had changed their lives.

Now, let's look at one more point. I left it out as we passed it. Maybe you can guess what it is.

8 The difference in the Resurrected Christ

³¹ **Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.**

Now, suppose you had the power to **hide** who you are, **show** who you are and the power to disappear. Suppose you wanted to have the most fun and the most dramatic effect. What would you do?

Doesn't it seem like it would be great fun to have someone recognize who you are, and as soon as they do, just disappear?

Really, what great purpose did it serve?

Christ was bringing knowledge and bringing joy to his followers. He was using a dramatic effect to do it. And He may have been showing the lighter side of his humanity in doing it. Really, is there anything wrong with that? It isn't like He was avoiding His responsibility. He had already carried out the hardest part of what He had to do.

Along with whatever fun this may have been, we also learn something about the resurrected body. Christ was no longer limited to what a human flesh and blood body could do. This is one of the things I think Randy Alcorn may be wrong about in his book about Heaven. I don't think our resurrected bodies will be as much like our present bodies as he does.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

⁴² **So also is the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, "*The first man Adam became a living being.*" The last Adam *became a life-giving spirit.* ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man *was of the earth, made of dust; the***

second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.* ⁴⁹ *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

It looks to me like our bodies will be something we are familiar with. It will be a body similar to what we have now. We will be able to recognize each other. But it will be different in that it will have capabilities that our present bodies don't. We will be limited to **be in one place at a time**. But we may be able to move from one place to another in ways we have never imagined.

Christ was able to walk with His disciples. But at the same time he could disappear from one physical location and reappear at another. He could show up inside of locked rooms without going through doors. And He was able to ascend up through the clouds without aid of an airplane.

We really don't know what it is that God has in store for us. But we can know for sure that it is worth the wait. And it is worth any price we are forced to pay.

And we can see from Christ's resurrected actions that we will not spend eternity sitting on a cloud strumming on a harp. I don't know anyone who wouldn't call what Christ was doing after His resurrection real fun.

Heaven is not being designed for imaginary people. It is being designed for real people like you and me. We can rest assured that it will have the best of what this life has and more. **How** it will be good, we don't know. **That** it will be good we are promised by the greatest keeper of His promises that ever existed.

For application, first I hope we are all remembering in 2017 that Christ is with us. I hope we are applying it to every thought and every action. I hope we are seeing the fruit of that effort.

This morning we have lots more we can apply. We can apply that we only have as much of God in our lives as what we really want. If we want more, we need to do something about it. We need to use the time God has given us to pursue Christ and a relationship with Him. Christ will reciprocate. He promises to.

We can focus on prioritizing opportunities to fellowship in Christ in ways that stretch us and make us grow. Remember how these men would not let go of Christ. They scheduled their lives around this opportunity to learn and grow. We can commit to reading the word more so our hearts will burn more. That is a good state to be in.

There is no shortage of ways we can apply ourselves to know and serve Christ better this week.