

**Text: Luke 24:13-35**

**Theme: The Emmaus Walk**

**Sermon delivered by Iyabo Agbelusi during Holy Communion Service on 08/04/2018 at 10.30am**

### **1. God's Word ignored**

Consider these 2 disciples heading to Emmaus just after what could be described as an extraordinary Passover weekend. They, along with so many others had been full of hope and anticipation that their hopes for the long-awaited messiah would be met in Jesus. However, their hopes had been dashed to smithereens before their eyes as Jesus was arrested, tortured and crucified; followed by His death and burial.

We may question why they were so deeply affected; we must realise that their own agenda determined their expectations. Many disciples made the mistake of thinking that the Jewish Messiah would merely recapture the glory days of King David. In other words, they hoped Jesus would bring Israel the same power and prosperity she once enjoyed, only magnified and multiplied. Given their exclusive worship of God, this would not be an inappropriate wish. But compared to the reality that lay before them—Roman oppression and a dead Messiah—their hopes for glory seemed to have been utterly destroyed. Not surprisingly therefore, they were deflated and disappointed. It is no surprise that they are making this 7 mile return journey home with heavy hearts as they discussed in vs 14-15, what they considered to be a sad turn of events.

Vs 16 says 'as Jesus drew alongside them but they were kept from recognizing Him'. This is because God had a purpose in blinding their eyes from reality. Jesus is not being cruel here rather, His gradual revelation of Himself allows them to learn certain lessons about trusting God's promises. The disciples had been told about these events many times, but they had not believed. Their answer to Jesus' enquiry showed their thoughts. First, their viewpoint lacked a spiritual dimension, leaving them with just a human understanding of the events. Take note of how Cleopas characterized the death of Jesus in vs19. Don't miss the lack of any divine involvement.

They had a preconceived idea of who Jesus was, what He had come to do, and how He should do it. But when things did not turn out as they expected, they dismissed the whole thing as a mere failure, a case of misplaced hope and trust.

**While God always has a plan, we are not always privy to that plan. When things don't turn out as we expect, instead of giving up and admitting defeat, perhaps we would be wise to see things differently, to ask ourselves if maybe God is up to something we simply do not understand. After all, He is God Almighty who is worthy of our trust in any and every situation.**

These two had heard the reports of the women who went to the tomb v22-24, yet they had not believed. The supernatural working of God to raise Jesus from the dead was beyond their imagination. They had never seriously changed their opinion of who Jesus was. Their overpowering pre-conceived notions about what the Messiah should be like was not modified in spite of all that Jesus said about Himself. They ignored all Jesus had said and failed to acknowledge the resurrection.

We need to be careful not to make the same mistake, to discount what God has done simply because we cannot explain it or understand it. While God often uses natural things to accomplish His will, He also does things we can neither explain nor understand. These two disciples knew something had happened, but ignored God's Word.

Just because they were Jesus' disciples did not mean they knew Him. Many people today think they know who Jesus is. They have heard about Him, read about Him, they use His name, and many even claim to know Him. Yet, their lifestyle is not in agreement with His Word. Their spiritual eyes have not been opened. Knowing about Jesus and knowing Him are two different things. Where do you stand? Do you just know about Jesus or do you know and have you experienced His cleansing power in your life?

## **2. God's Word explained**

Verse 27 says, "Then beginning with Moses and from all the prophets Jesus interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scripture." While we do not know the specific passages He used, **we know Jesus opened to them the Scriptures with a view toward showing them how all the Old Testament pointed to Him as its fulfilment.**

Jesus led a bible study in which He demonstrated that although the two disciples knew the contents of Scripture, they did not accept its message as truth. As a result, they failed to see God's sovereign plan. His question, "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" pointed to the reason for their unbelief (vs26). They had confused their own expectations with the hope God was offering, and they had failed to see God's ultimate purpose.

**Jesus wanted them to see that if they would only believe what the Scriptures say about Him, they would understand why He came and why He had to suffer and that He is the awaited Messiah. The Bible gives testimony of who Jesus is. He uses it today to open the eyes of those who do not know Him.** I still remember the bible verse He used to open my eyes - Isaiah 64:6-to show me that all my righteousness was like filthy rags before Him.

Many people will try to tell you who Jesus is. They will tell you He is one of many ways to get to Heaven. They will tell you He was a good man, a great prophet, or a good teacher; - all half-truths leading to error. Outside of a knowledge of Scripture you will never have a proper understanding of who Jesus is. That is one of the reasons why it is so important to believe that **all** of Scripture is God's word. For if it is untrustworthy at any point then it can be untrustworthy at every point. It is either all God's word or it is not His word at all. When you know the Scriptures, they will build your faith, and only through faith can you come to Jesus. The truth of Scripture about Jesus leads to personal faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing God's Word. It is one of the reasons we gather together in church for a Sunday service and shows how important bible study is for us.

## **3. God's Word revealed in Jesus**

It was only as they had fellowship with Jesus at table, that He disclosed Himself to them. Jesus reveals Himself to those whose eyes He has opened through the truths of His Word.

It is significant that it is around the supper table that the disciples' eyes are opened and they see Jesus for who He really is. **V30.** In the intimacy of fellowship Jesus reveals Himself to us. His working in our lives becomes clearer, and His provision and protection come into focus. Think about Rev 3:20 where He says, ' **Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me.**' **God wants to fellowship with us but we must invite Him in to be able to access that fellowship.**

But once they recognized Him, He literally became invisible! Now fellowship with Him was not going to depend on their ability to see Him, but rather upon their taking Him at His word. Their new resurrected hope carried them back to Jerusalem to tell the good news to others. Can you imagine the excitement they must have felt as they walked?

They said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Their encounter with Jesus had been deeply powerful. It had stirred them on the inside. It had moved their very hearts. And once moved they could not help but share the good news.

V33 records, *That very hour*- it was (v33) dark, late and the road was possibly dangerous but nothing deterred them, they left for Jerusalem. They gave witness that Jesus was risen, that He had walked with them and talked with them, explained the Scriptures to them, and broke bread at their table.

Everyone who has experienced the risen Saviour should be moved with similar hope and joy. All who have come to know Him should react the same way. We should not be able to contain it. Jesus told Thomas in John 20:29, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who believe without seeing."

**Do you know Jesus this morning? Have your eyes ever been opened to who He is and what He has done for you? Does He walk with you and talk with you? How does Jesus figure in your everyday decisions? Can you truly testify that He has opened your eyes to know Him as Saviour and Lord? Has your experience with Him been so real, so moving, so life changing that it has caused you to tell others about Him?**

Let us pray.