

When was the last time your heart burned within you?

I want to turn our attention today to **Luke 24** starting in **verse 23**.

Let me set the scene. These two folks were in Jerusalem at the death of Jesus Christ. Something was bothering them. Things did not go according to their understanding.

While they were walking from Jerusalem on their way home to Emmaus (approximately 7 miles) they were discussing what they had seen just a short time before. They had heard about Jesus and His claims and wondering why He had been crucified and died. He was to be the Savior of Israel, yet He was crucified.

What a let down for these two. While they discussed these issues and tried to make sense of what had happened, this guy all of a sudden begins walking with them.

He asks, why are you so sad?

Now they did not recognize Jesus as He was walking with them. He had hidden His identity from their view.

Cleopas answered Jesus's question, where you been man? Don't you know what just happened in Jerusalem? Jesus answers them – What things?

They answered Him with; We are talking about this Man Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet mighty in deed and the Word of God before all of the people. Further the priests and our rulers condemned Him to death and crucified Him. Then some folks who were with us went to the tomb the next day, and it was empty. He was not there.

Jesus then looks at them and says; O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken, Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?

Jesus was preaching the gospel to them – Death, burial and resurrection.

Interesting thing now beloved, is that Jesus opened the scriptures to reveal to them, **ALL THE THINGS CONCERNING HIMSELF**.

No more mention about their problems, just revealing Himself through the Scriptures.

As time passed (only God knows how long they walked and talked) they came to the village where they lived. Jesus was prepared to walk on but they **CONSTRAINED** Him. Please sir, stay with us a while longer. It is late and you will need to spend the night, so Jesus stayed with them.

Dinner was prepared, and as they sat around the table, Jesus began to bless the food. He took the bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them.

Immediately scripture says, "their eyes were opened, and they **KNEW** Him.

Put yourself in their place beloved. Imagine for a moment this was you there. All of a sudden, your eyes are opened, and you look again and BAM – it was Jesus Himself that was there.

Immediately He vanished from their sight.

As Don Francisco said in one of his songs – I've got to tell somebody, I've got to tell somebody.

Immediately they arose from the table and started running the 7 miles back to Jerusalem to tell the others what had happened to them.

Looking at one another they asked the question to one another – “Did not our hearts BURN within us, while He talked with us and opened the scriptures to our understanding all of the things CONCERNING HIMSELF.

Notice beloved the relationship between a “burning heart” and the opening of the Scriptures concerning Him.

When was the last time you experienced a “burning heart” as a preacher/teacher was opening the scriptures revealing Jesus Christ?

For me, it was the years of teachings by my mentor Keith Lamb.

Pastors/teacher, you want to do the Saints a real favor? Open the scriptures to their understanding about Him. Present Him in such a way as they see the real Jesus. Not their shortcomings because we already know all about them.

Oh, you may start out as Jesus did by discussing their being “slow of heart” in their inability to believe the scriptures, but then get on with the MEAT.

Tell them why they no longer come to the mountain of “fire and brimstone”. Tell them why Jesus was made a little lower than the angels and the reason He became a man. Tell them why this Man was worthy of more glory than Moses. Teach them why they are to be at rest, and why they should be anxious for nothing. Teach them that they are not alone and why. Teach them why they should have confidence in the future, and what awaits them for their faithfulness. On you can go with it.

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