

WHY DO YOU THINK,,, THAT JESUS WALKED AND TALKED TO CLEOPAS AND ANOTHER,,, UNNAMED DISCIPLE,,, ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS?

HE DID THAT,,, BECAUSE JESUS KNEW,,, THAT THEY WERE FRIGHTENED,,, THEIR HEARTS WERE FILLED WITH DOUBT,,, AND HE WANTED TO REMOVE THEIR DOUBT,,, THEIR FEAR,,, AND THEIR CONFUSION.

THIS IS WHERE THOSE DISCIPLES WERE AT,,, IN THEIR MINDS. THEIR LOGIC SCREAMED,,, THAT: “*COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD!*”,,,, *IS IMPOSSIBLE!*”

THEY’RE STARTLED,,, FRIGHTENED,,, FILLED WITH DISBELIEF,,, YET,,, THEY’RE JOYOUS AND IN WONDER.

THEY’RE AT A CRITICAL POINT,,, OF DECIDING BETWEEN LOGIC,,, AND THE PROMISES OF GOD.

THEY’RE CAUGHT UP,,, IN A DISPUTE,,, AND JUST LIKE US,,, THEY MUST JUDGE WHAT THEY WILL BELIEVE.

THEY MUST ASK THEMSELVES,,, AS WE MUST ALSO.

WHY,,, DO WE DOUBT,,, WHY ARE WE SO AFRAID AND,,, WHO ARE WE DOUBTING,,, GOD,,, OR,,, OURSELVES?

DOUBTS,,, WE ALL HAVE THEM AND SO DID THE TWO DISCIPLES.

DOUBTS:

(*) THEY MAKE US WONDER,,, IF GOD IS THERE!

(*) IF HE EVEN HEARS US,,, AT ALL,,, AND MAYBE,,,

(*) IF WE CAN TRUST HIM.

IN THIS WEEKS GOSPEL,,, WE HEAR ABOUT TWO DISCIPLES,,, WHO WERE WALKING FROM JERUSALEM TO EMMAUS,,, A TRIP OF ABOUT EIGHT MILES.

IT’S A LITTLE LATER,,, ON THE SAME DAY,,, THAT JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD,,, AND THE TWO WERE DISCUSSING THE EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS,,, INCLUDING THE FACT,,, THAT SOME OF THE WOMEN FROM THEIR GROUP,,, HAD FOUND THE TOMB EMPTY AND THEY REPORTED AN ENCOUNTER WITH ANGELS, SAYING,,, THAT JESUS WAS ALIVE.

NOW IMAGINE THEIR CONFUSION AND SENSE OF BEWILDERMENT. THEN,,, AS THEY WALKED AND TALKED TOGETHER,,, JESUS CAME ALONGSIDE THEM,,, AND HE WALKED WITH THEM,,,

BUT,,, THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM.

(*) I WONDER,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, *HOW OFTEN JESUS HAS DRAWN ALONGSIDE US,,, IN OUR TIMES OF GRIEF,,, WHEN WE HAVE QUESTIONS,,, AND DURING OUR TIMES OF CONFUSION.*

(*) I WONDER,,, *HOW OFTEN JESUS WALKED WITH US,,, AND WE HAVEN'T RECOGNIZED HIM? AND,,,*

(*) I WONDER,,, *HOW OFTEN HE'S CARRIED US AND WE HAVEN'T REALIZED THAT WE ARE BEING HELD IN HIS EVERLASTING ARMS.*

JESUS ASKED THE DISCIPLES WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT,,, AND THEY TOLD THE STORY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH,,, HOW HE WAS HANDED OVER TO DEATH BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

THEY HAD DOUBT AND CONFUSION,,, BECAUSE,,, **HE WAS THE ONE WHO THEY HAD EXPECTED TO RESCUE AND REDEEM ISRAEL,,, BUT,,, *HE WAS CRUCIFIED.***

NOW,,, ON TOP OF THAT,,, SOME OF THE WOMEN FROM THEIR GROUP,,, ARE CLAIMING ***THAT JESUS IS ALIVE*** AND THAT THE TOMB IS EMPTY AND HIS BODY IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. IT'S A MYSTERY!

ISN'T THAT FANTASTIC? JESUS WALKED AND TALKED WITH THEM AND LISTENED TO THEIR STORY,,, ABOUT HIM,,, JUST AS HE WALKS,,, TALKS AND LISTENS TO US TODAY.

BUT,,, ***THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!***

JESUS DIDN'T "***PAT THEM ON THEIR HEADS AND SAY,,, THAT'S OK GUYS,,, IT'LL BE OK!***"

NO,,, WITHOUT THEM REALIZING,,, THAT THIS WAS JESUS,,, ***HE REMINDED THEM OF ALL THE THINGS THEY HAD FORGOTTEN TO THINK ABOUT AND HAD CHOSEN TO ALLOW THE THINGS OF THE WORLD,,,***

TO PREOCCUPY THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEARS,, BY SAYING;

“HOW FOOLISH YOU ARE AND HOW SLOW OF HEART TO BELIEVE ALL THAT THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN”.

NOW,, WE DON'T FIND IT EASY TO CORRECT OR ENCOURAGE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST LIKE THAT,, DO WE?

NO WE DON'T,, BUT JESUS SETS THE EXAMPLE FOR US.

HE WALKS AND TALKS WITH THE DISCIPLES,,, AND,,, HE LISTENS TO THEM! THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF JESUS,,, BUT THEY KNOW,,, THAT SOMEONE,,, HAS BEEN LISTENING TO THEM.

THEN JESUS BEGINS TO INSTRUCT THEM--BEGINNING WITH MOSES AND ALL THE PROPHETS.

HE TAKES A LONG TIME TO GIVE THEM A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY,,, CONCERNING HIMSELF.

LATER,,, THESE TWO MEN WOULD SAY:

“WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US,,, WHILE HE TALKED WITH US ON THE ROAD AND OPENED THE SCRIPTURES TO US?”

SCRIPTURE SAYS,,, THAT THEY WENT INTO THEIR HOUSE,,, AND AS THEY ATE TOGETHER ,, THE TWO DISCIPLES THEN RECOGNIZED JESUS,,, AS THE ONE WHO HAD SPOKEN TO THEM,,, AND ATE WITH THEM.

THIS WAS COMPASSIONATE LISTENING,,, FRIENDSHIP TEACHING,,, CORRECTION,,, FELLOWSHIP,,, AND FOOD,,, ALL ROLLED UP INTO ONE LIFE GIVING EXPERIENCE.

IT WAS TIME GIVEN,,, TO ENCOURAGE,,, CHALLENGE AND CHANGE THEIR FOCUS AND IT'S THE SAME MESSAGE THAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS SENDING TO ALL OF US TODAY.

SO,,, I ASK YOU,,, *DO YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT JESUS IS WALKING BESIDE YOU,,, AND THAT HE IS LISTENING TO YOU,,, RIGHT NOW?*

IF SO,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, **KNOW THAT HE IS!**
IF JESUS WERE TO REMIND US,,, FOR BEING FOOLISH
AND SLOW TO FORGET WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS
ABOUT HIM,,, OR OUR BELIEF IN HIM,,, WHAT WE
WOULD SAY?

JESUS MAY CHOOSE TO SPEAK TO US,,, THROUGH HIS
WORD,,, OR,,, PERHAPS,,, EVEN THROUGH SOMEONE
ELSE,,, AND WE TOO,,, **MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY
RECOGNIZE HIS PRESENCE.**

BUT,,, IF THE INSTRUCTION,,, IS ACCOMPANIED BY;
ENCOURAGEMENT,,, SCRIPTURE,,, CONVERSATION
AND FOOD,,, WE TOO,,, WILL COME TO RECOGNIZE
AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE,,, AND IT WILL
BE A WONDERFUL,,, LOVING,,, AND JOYFUL
ENCOUNTER,,, WITH OUR LORD,,, JESUS CHRIST.

THE TWO DISCIPLES,,, WERE SO EXCITED BY THEIR
ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS,,, THAT THEY GOT UP,,, AND
RETURNED TO JERUSALEM,,, SO THEY COULD TELL
THE OTHERS THAT THEY HAD RECOGNIZED HIM,,,
**WHEN HE BROKE THE BREAD WITH THEM,,, JUST AS
WE DO,,,** WHEN WE COME TO HIS MOST HOLY ALTAR.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, **“THE LORD IS HERE,,,
STANDING RIGHT ALONG SIDE US”**,,, WHETHER WE
RECOGNIZE HIM OR NOT,,, AND HE HAS THINGS TO
SAY TO US.

SO,,, MY QUESTIONS TO ALL OF YOU,,, ON THIS
BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY,,,ARE THESE:

- (*) WILL YOU CHOOSE TO WALK WITH JESUS?
- (*) WILL YOU CHOOSE TO TALK WITH JESUS?
- (*) WILL YOU CHOOSE TO LISTEN TO JESUS IN THE
SCRIPTURE AND IN YOUR SPIRIT? AND,,,
- (*) WILL YOU CHOOSE,,, WHEN WE ARE ABLE,,, TO
COME UP FRONT AND EAT WITH JESUS,,, AS WE
BREAK BREAD TOGETHER,,, DURING COMMUNION
AT HIS HOLY ALTAR?

WHEN WE CHOOSE TO WALK WITH JESUS... ALL OUR
DOUBTS AND DISPAIR WILL BE OVERCOME.

**SO,,, I ENCOURAGE YOU,,, DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED,,,
HAVE NO DOUBT,,, AND BELIEVE,,, THAT OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST,,, IS WALKING WITH YOU,,, AND
DWELLS WITHIN YOU,,, TODAY AND EVERYDAY,,, JUST
AS HE DID ON THAT DIRTY,,, DUSTY ROAD TO
EMMAUS,,, WITH HIS TWO DISCIPLES.**

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,,, AND OF THE SON,,, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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1,090 Wds, 5 Pgs