



EASTER FIRE LUKE 24:13-33

CONNECT

What do you get excited about? What kind of things motivate you and fire you up?

WORD

Luke 24:13-33 (ESV) - ¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he

was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

2 Here we see one of the most interesting stories in the Bible. Some of Jesus' disciples were traveling to the town of Emmaus from Jerusalem and Jesus joined them and asked them why they seemed to be so upset. It was evident in their countenance-and perhaps even in their manner of walking-that they were sad. Jesus knew both what they already knew (that they were sad) and what they did not yet know (that they had no reason to be sad). They responded to Jesus in stunned disbelief that anyone could have been in Jerusalem recently and not known about

Jesus. Jesus probably smiled when they said this. He knew pretty well what had happened here in these days and yet he replies by goading them to talk more about it. In saying this, Jesus skillfully played along with the conversation, encouraging the men to reveal their hearts. Jesus longs for us to tell Him our hearts, even though He already knows. There is great value for us in saying it to Him.

The men explained what they did know about Jesus: They knew His name and where He was from. They knew He was a Prophet. They knew He was mighty in deed and word. They knew He was crucified. They knew He promised to redeem Israel. They knew others had said He rose from the dead. And they knew that they had hoped for more (v. 21).

These disciples had a hope they felt was disappointed. Their hope was really not disappointed; but in some ways their hope was misguided (that it was He who was going to redeem Israel). But really, their hope was fulfilled in a greater way than they could have ever dreamed. Jesus had been resurrected, they had heard the testimony of witnesses to this. Death and the grave had been conquered.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- Jesus told these disciples that the problem with their belief was more in their heart than in their head. We often think that the main obstacles to belief are in the head, but they are actually in the heart. What have been the most difficult obstacles to belief in your life? Head or heart?

- The Bible says that their eyes were suddenly opened and they knew Jesus was the one who was with them all along. What was it that showed them it was Jesus? If you had been these disciples, would you have believed the accounts of the empty tomb without the proof when Jesus revealed himself?
- Jesus can be right in front of you, walking with you and sitting down with you at every meal and your eyes can be restrained from seeing him. So, we should pray that God would open our eyes to Jesus as he is, as being with us all the time. Besides prayer, what else can we do to nurture a “mindful state” and practice the presence of God in our lives?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about being practicing the presence of God? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does the story of the road to Emmaus change the way you feel about your relationship with God?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? What specific plan will you put in place to follow God’s plan for you?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?