



SONGS: "Open Up the Heavens", "See a Victory", "Reckless Love"

TITLE: On the Way!

ICE BREAKER: Have you ever ran into someone that you knew, but you couldn't for the life or you remember where you knew them from?

BIG IDEA: Jesus is our faithful companion on the Journey of life. He wants to meet us in our problems and teach us transformation as we experience his truth.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Luke 24:13-35

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

OPENING THOUGHTS:

Two Problems Presented in Two Disciples:

ASSUMPTION / Nature of Speech - Our speech is so indicative of the condition and comprehension of the heart. The Lord's words to the religious Pharisees teaches us something that is true for all men. He said, "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good?" Then note what He said, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart" (Matt. 12:34). "Are exchanging" is from the Greek verb, *antibalw*, which, in this context, carries the idea of "to throw back and forth like a ball as in a game." The point is, when our words are not anchored in the Word, in the viewpoint of God, and do not stem from an awareness of His presence, the end result, regardless of how sincere we are, is that we often just play games with words like a ball we throw back and forth. Like a lot of people, they were probably proud of their opinions and they were exchanging ideas, experiences, feelings, fears, and probably doing some grumbling as well. Their words simply could not comfort them and in essence, they were pooling their ignorance. As a result, "... they stood still, looking sad," or lit., "with sad, sullen or gloomy faces (or expressions)."

PERCEPTION / Lack of Sight (SPIRITUALLY BLIND)- Their condition (the lack of perception and comprehension) was a product of their neglect of God's truth in some way. This is evident from the following: "Foolish" is the Greek *anoetos*, which literally means, "without understanding," but it generally carries a sense of blame. It has a moral as well as an intellectual sense, and the use of this word suggests their condition was a product of their own indifference and self-reliance. Unlike the Bereans of Acts 17:11, they had failed to search the Scriptures regarding the things the Savior had taught them. In the Old Testament a fool is one who is not only without God's wisdom, but he is one who is without it because he thinks he does not need it or because his values and priorities, being all wrong, cause him to neglect it

MAIN POINTS IN TEACHING:

Encounters with Jesus Leads to transformation:

- Transformation of Sight - Their eyes were opened and they recognized him. As they spend time with Jesus through the teaching of the word they saw Jesus for who he really was
- Transformation of Speech - Didn't our hearts burn within us. Thermometer vs. Thermostat

What happens when we encounter Jesus in the Word?

- Regeneration - Because of the sinful world that we live in, and the sin that lives in us. God's truth is hidden from us, we are lost!
- Spirituality - Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Practice confession and faith
- Discipline - rule out personal prejudiced or preconceived ideas (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Growth - You don't stay a baby Hebrews 5:11-6:1
- Dependence - Talking time and making an effort to to Listen (Talk about the difference between hearing and listening) The Igniter of the Heart

Impact of their/our time with Jesus

- Restoration - v.33 (a) They got up and returned at once
- Community - v. 33 (b) There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

- Testimony - v. 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."
- Education - v. 27 & 35 Jesus educated them, now they were able to educate others about Jesus

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why were they ready to leave Jerusalem?
2. Why do you think breaking bread with Jesus caused them to finally see Jesus for who he was?
3. What causes us to forget God's promises?
4. Why are we so often not looking for Jesus to show up in our situations?
5. In what ways do you seek after comfort, instead of Jesus?

FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

CHALLENGE: Jesus wants to meet us on the journey, and give us a new direction. How will spending time with Jesus right now cause us to change the way we see and hear?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, Thank You that You are patient with us. Knowing that we need You to explain and teach us so that we can believe. We pray that You would fill us with Your Holy Spirit and do this same work in our hearts, causing a burning in our hearts as we read Your Word. We pray that You would give us eyes to see what You are doing in us and through us. That our words would be transformed into faith filled words spreading Your Gospel by our Testimony. May we excitedly share with our family, with our friends, with everyone You give us that chance to share with, that "It is true! The Lord has risen..." May we recognize You in our lives and may You lead us this day and this week. In the Name of Jesus who has Risen, Amen!