

“From Mourners To Missionaries!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Harvest Crusade** - last night tonight; Toby Mac, Crystal & Dennis.
- 1.2. **Last week**(Part 1): **A Walk To Remember!** - Jesus **Journeying** With Them!
Jesus **Sympathizing** With Them! - Jesus **Expounding** the Scriptures To Them!
And, this week we'll witness Jesus **Revealing Himself To Them!**
 - 1.2.1. **Catch newcomers up on story.**
 - 1.2.1.1. Vs.24 – Their aching void...*“But Him they did not see.”*
 - 1.2.2. Today we move from *sadness of doubt* to *gladness of faith!*
- 1.3. **Outline:** **Welcoming Him; Discerning Him; Rejoicing In Him; Telling Others Of Him.**

2. **FROM MOURNERS TO MISSIONARIES! (28-25)**

- 2.1. **WELCOMING HIM!** (28,29)
- 2.2. **Indicated he would have gone further** – Christ testing them to see if they really desired to **abide** with Him.
 - 2.2.1. He awaited their invitation to come in.
- 2.3. **What a blessing for them that they were given to hospitality!**
 - 2.3.1. What they would have missed had they not been!
- 2.4. **Abide with us** –
 - 2.4.1. Did you know that the word **religion** implies **a bond**.
 - 2.4.2. The 2nd ½ of the word comes from the Latin root *ligare* “to bind”.
 - 2.4.3. Like our word **ligament** (the bond of fibrous tissue that holds the bones together)
 - 2.4.4. The Christian religion then implies our link/bond w/Christ (that which bonds us together w/Him in a love-relationship).
 - 2.4.4.1. Now, that love-relationship can hardly be maintained w/a dead person who lived 2000 yrs ago, & now has passed entirely beyond human contact???
- 2.5. **Abide Illustration:** *Dr. Howard Hendricks* tells of a **small town in Texas** where one year the school burned to the ground with the loss of more than 200 lives, because they didn't have a **sprinkler system**. They began to rebuild after the initial shock had passed and called in the foremost company in fire prevention equipment to install a sprinkler system. When the new school was opened for public inspection, guides pointed out the new sprinklers in each room, to alleviate fears of another disaster. The school operated without incident for a number of years, then they needed to add on to the existing structure. As work progressed, they made a startling discovery. *The new fire extinguishing equipment had never been connected to the water supply!* They had the latest in technology and equipment, yet it was entirely useless!

- 2.5.1. Jn.15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- 2.5.2. Or, using the analogy above, "I am the **water supply**, you are the **pipng system**. He who is **connected to the water supply**, and I **connected to him**, their sprinkler heads work properly; for without Me you can do nothing."
- 2.6. **DISCERNING HIM!** (30,31)
- 2.7. They offered Him hospitality, & He accepted it; & then He gave them hospitality!
- 2.7.1. A **common** meal turned into a **communion** meal.
An **ordinary** meal turns into a **sacramental** meal.
- 2.8. Took, blessed, broke, & gave – a familiar act.
- 2.9. Jesus came & talked to them, when their **hopes** were dead & buried.
- 2.9.1. But now the meaning of life became **clear** & the darkness became **light**.
- 2.10. Some ordinary **disciples**, on an ordinary **road**, to an ordinary **town**, in an ordinary **home**, eating an ordinary **meal**, but who invited **an extraordinary guest...in!**
- 2.10.1. And He vanished from their sight!
- 2.11. Here were 2 people in a very distressed state, unable to think straight.
- 2.11.1. **1st** of all Jesus asked questions: He got them to talk, established a relationship, and so made them receptive to what He had to say.
- 2.11.2. **2nd** He explained the Scripture - showing them that what had been puzzling them.
- 2.11.3. **Finally**, He revealed his presence. "Stay with us" they had said to him on reaching Emmaus. In the deepest sense He did, even after they ceased to see Him.
- 2.12. **REJOICING IN HIM!** (32)
- 2.13. Heart burn within us....the good kind!
- 2.13.1. Didn't you **feel** something different when we spoke with Him?
- 2.13.2. This is **experiential** – I guess Experience can be legit!
- 2.13.2.1. We usually hear of it in the negative.
- 2.14. While other teachers only touch the **ear**, He penetrates & touches the **heart**.
- 2.15. **TELLING OTHERS OF HIM!** (33-35)
- 2.16. When we suddenly realize the Lord Jesus **died for us**, and **rose again**, our lives also are **forever changed!**
- 2.17. See their **radiant eagerness!**
- 2.17.1. Their **limping doubt** has become **leaping faith!**
- 2.17.2. The **wilderness** has blossomed as **the rose!**
- 2.17.3. **Beauty** has replaced **ashes**; **oil of joy** has rubbed out their **mourning**, & the **garment of praise** has done away w/heaviness.

- 2.17.4. There was now the gladness of **certainty!**
- 2.17.5. They had **seen & known & communed** with their Lord.
- 2.18. **Q: Which direction had they been walking to go home?** N/W (towards the sunset)
- 2.18.1. The Christian is the one who walks **not toward the sunset but toward the sunrise!**
- 2.18.1.1. Long ago it was said of the children of Israel that they journeyed in the wilderness **toward the sunrise.** (Numb.21:11)
- 2.18.2. **“The Christian goes onward, not to a night which falls, but to a dawn which breaks!”¹**
- 2.19. (33) They had to share their experience, and no one in Emmaus would understand.
- 2.19.1. **One of the best signs of recovery from depression is a desire to be back among other believer’s.**
- 2.19.2. So the **long discourage walk** to Emmaus now became a **joyous run** to Jerusalem, with renewed strength and encouragement.
- 2.19.3. They take off in the dark, but their love becomes **a lamp unto their feet!**
- 2.20. (34) This is actually the 11 speaking.
- 2.21. *** However the resurrection took place this I am certain:
Christ survived His death; Proved His survival to His followers; and, Is still available to those who seek Him!²**
- 2.21.1. Interesting, the **earliest sermons** in the church (in Acts) were about His Resurrection, not expositions of His teachings.
- 2.21.1.1. **Nothing less would have turned runaways into missionaries overnight.**
- 2.21.2. **If Jesus’ death had been the end of Him, it would have been the death of His religion.**
- 2.21.2.1. **His friends** probably would have **venerated** His tomb;
His enemies would have exploded the **“myth”** of resurrection, if they could disprove it.
- 2.21.3. **Remember the resurrection was preached w/in 6 weeks of the crucifixion, in the very area where His death had taken place!!!**
- 2.21.3.1. Scores of people could have refuted it, had it not taken place!
- 2.22. (35) They couldn’t keep this **good news** to themselves! – **2 Kings 7:9.**
- 2.22.1. In the same way these 2 disciples of the Lord, who had been **blinded by their own grief**, decided that the fact that **Jesus was alive**, and had **appeared to them** was **too good to keep to themselves**, so they left immediately for Jerusalem, even though it was dark.
- 2.22.1.1. **They didn’t worry about the danger, or the distance.**
- 2.22.2. They had **good news to share** and they **couldn’t wait to tell their story.**
- 2.22.3. **Great reminder: Speak what you know; testify what you have seen!**

¹ William Barclay; Luke 24.

² Leslie Weatherhead; Treasury of Great Preaching; pg.132.

- 2.23. When you've met w/Jesus, you should immediately go away to do His will!
- 2.23.1. **Not to emphasize** creeds, doctrines, liturgies, & ceremonies, **but to spread His loving spirit** in the world.
- 2.23.2. That **doesn't mean** giving up what you are doing. **It means** doing the same job in a **different spirit** for a **different Master**.
- 2.23.3. **No job** is of itself **secular**. It is secular or sacred according to **the way we do it** & the One to whom we **offer it**.
- 2.23.3.1. Jesus was as much **the Son of God** when he did **carpentry** as when He **preached sermons**.
- 2.23.3.2. **Proof:** before he had preached at all the Voice said, **"this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."**
- 2.23.4. At the end of our journey the important thing will **not be what we've done; it will be what** all our doing **has made us!!!**³

2.24. **Communion:**

2.25. **A COMMON MEAL OPENED TO A COMMUNION MEAL!**

2.26. He was recognized by them in *the breaking of bread* -

2.26.1. Was it because of the **Last Supper** (some say but they were not there!)

2.26.2. Was it because of the **Feeding of the 5000?**

2.26.3. Was it because they saw His **nailed scarred hands?**

2.26.4. Either way He took them back to His life, Death, & Resurrection.

2.27. What makes a **common** meal into a **communion** meal?

2.27.1. **Isn't it every time you remember Him?** (i.e. "do this in remembrance of Me")
Isn't it every time you welcome Him to the table? (sense His presence)

2.28. **Poem:**

Though He talked of the Kingdom & all it would bring,
The disciples knew not that they walked with the king;
At the evening repast, on the home table spread,
He was known unto them in the breaking of bread.
So we wonder, we question, we doubt, & we fear,
Seeking Christ in the distance who liveth so near,
And then back to the hearthstone at eventide led
He is known unto us in the breaking of bread.
With the purest emotion our hearts may have burned
When the presence of Christ was but dimly discerned;
Yet the spiritual hunger no other has fed -
He is known to our souls in the breaking of bread. (Alfred J. Hough)⁴

2.29. **My shocking find on sin:**

2.30. Did you know Jesus only **spoke on sin** on **6** occasions(found in noun form), & **3** occasions(verb from). **Paul 91 times!**

³ Leslie Weatherhead; Treasury of Great Preaching; pg.134.

⁴ Griffith Thomas; Luke; pg.385

- 2.30.1. When Jesus did speak of sin it was to condemn **hypocrites**, or reveal sin to those who **wouldn't see it** in their life.
- 2.30.2. **Remember the story** of **Michelangelo** when he saw in the builder's yard, a **lump of marble**, "*stained, unattractive, & cast aside.*" He said, "Take it to my studio. There is an angel **imprisoned** in that marble & I can **set it free!**"
- 2.30.3. That seemed to be **Christ's heart** toward the **penitent sinner**.
- 2.30.4. **Go to the records:**
- 2.30.5. **[1]** Men despised a woman because she was a **prostitute**. Jesus doesn't *pretend* she was an angel. He says, "**Her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she loved much.**"
- 2.30.5.1. There was an angel imprisoned in that woman, & He set it free.
- 2.30.6. **[2]** A woman was taken in **adultery**. He doesn't pretend she isn't a sinner, because He says, "**sin no more.**" But He also says, "**I don't condemn you.**"
- 2.30.7. **[3]** Even with a **dying guilty criminal** He made a love-relationship.
- 2.30.7.1. Thus Jesus passed through the gates of death, with His arm around the shoulder of a thief.
- 2.31. **This morning:** is Jesus speaking to **your heart** (*feel mind-stirring & heart-burning*) "**Is there an angel imprisoned in you that He desires to set free!**"
- 2.31.1. **Turn** from your sin. **Abide** in Him.
- 2.31.2. He awaits your invitation to come in! 😊
- 2.31.2.1. **Q:** Will you **invite Him in this morning** or **let Him pass on?**
- 2.32. **Passing out the elements:** (both bread & cup passed out together)
- 2.32.1. We'll partake of **bread** together after 1st song.
- 2.32.2. We'll partake of **the cup** together after 2nd song.
- 2.33. **End:** **Richy shares** -