

From Mourners to Missionaries

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Marriage Retreat 2021: See Events tab ch App. Bill/Pam Ferrel. *men/waffles women/Spagh*
- B. Slide2 Good Friday Communion service at 7 am. STREAMED as well.
- C. Slide3 Easter Sunday: 7am, 8:30am, 10 am, 11:30 am.
- D. Slide4 Service time update: YOUTH and Calvary kids at 10am and 12noon.

II. Slide5a **Intro:** *From Mourners to Missionaries*

- A. Last week (Part 1) we looked at this *beautiful story* of 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus comes alongside them (though hidden) and leads them on a 7 mile journey, *to Himself*. This story mirrors many of us who have passed through the gloom of **doubt**, to the clear shining of **faith**.
 1. Now we are at *the end of their journey* (in their hometown), *or is it just the beginning?*
- B. Slide5b (Part 1) we looked at: *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. Their aching void was found in vs.24 *But Him they did not see.*
 2. Today we move from sadness of doubt, to gladness of faith. **READ 28-35**

III. Slide6a **WELCOMING HIM (28,29)** *Discerning Him. Rejoicing in Him. Telling Others of Him.*

- A. He acted as if He were going farther – Christ testing them to see if they really desired to *abide* with Him. [He awaited their invitation to come in]
- B. What a blessing for them that they were *given to hospitality*.
 1. What they would have *missed* had they not been.
- C. Slide6b *Stay with us* – **Lodge** all night w/us, share a **meal** with us.

1. Did you know that the word religion implies **a bond**. From the Latin root *religio* “to bind”.
2. Like our word **ligament** (the bond of *fibrous tissue* that holds the bones together)
3. The Christian religion then implies our link/bond w/Christ (that which bonds us together w/Him in *a love-relationship*). **Stay bound with us.**

IV. Slide7a **DISCERNING HIM (30,31)** *Welcoming Him. - Rejoicing in Him. Telling Others of Him.*

- A. They offered Him hospitality & He accepted it. **And then** He gave them hospitality.
1. A **common meal** turned into a **communion meal**.
An **ordinary meal** turns into a **sacramental meal**.
- B. Slide7b **Took, blessed, broke, & gave** – a familiar act. Jesus’ words and actions here might be intended as an *allusion* to the Last Supper. **Compare ...**
1. 22:19 - **And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying.**
- C. The same language is used at the feeding of the 5,000. **Compare ...**
1. 9:16 - **And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them.**
- D. **Also**, see vs.35b - *known to them in the breaking of bread*. **Why?** because it was just like *communion*? **Or** how he *prayed* over the meal? **Or** because they saw His *nail scarred hands*? **Or** Jesus simply revealed Himself to them in **a common meal?**
- E. Jesus came & talked to them, when their **hopes** were *dead & buried*.
1. **But now** the *meaning of life* became **clear &** the darkness became **light**.
- F. 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.
- G. Slide7c Here were 2 people, in a very distressed state, unable to think straight.
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. (17,19)

2. **2nd** He explained the **Scripture**. Showing them that what had been puzzling them. (26)
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.*

H. Slide7d (31) *Their eyes were opened* - just as He regenerates hearts today.

1. Revelation to **sense**, only after revelation to **faith**.
 2. *They did not believe because they saw, they saw because they believed.*
 3. *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**.* Jn.20:29
- I. (31) *He vanished from their sight* - His purpose of His visit was accomplished.
1. It taught them to *deal with absence, instead of* enjoying *bodily presence*.
 2. It would teach them to *trust w/o sight*.

V. Slide8a **REJOICING IN HIM (32)** *Welcoming Him. Discerning Him. - Telling Others of Him.*

- A. Interesting, their **Wonder** is *not at the resurrection, nor of* sorrow at Him *vanishing* from their sight, *but of* recalling *the glow of their hearts*.
- B. *Did not our Hearts burn within us - heartburn, the good kind. [heartburn actually is not the heart burning! It's a form of indigestion, caused by acid regurgitation into the esophagus]*
1. *Didn't you feel* something different when we spoke with Him?
 2. This is **experiential**. I guess **experience** can be legit. [usually hear in neg]
 3. Slide8b *Faith is perfected by **recognition** and sealed by **experience**.*
 - a) While other teachers only touch **the ear**, He *penetrates & touches the heart*.
- C. We need to learn *the secret of the burning heart*. Life is so often *dull, dreary, common place*, with commonplace duties and people, *that* can often *kill the burning heart*. The **secret** of *the burning heart* is *abiding in Christ*, *abiding with Him*.

VI. Slide9a **TELLING OTHERS OF HIM (33-35)** *From Mourners To Missionaries*

- A. Like these 2, when we *suddenly realized* the Lord Jesus **died** for us and **rose** again, our lives also were forever changed.
- B. Slide9b Their **limping doubt** has become **leaping faith**. Their **wilderness** has **blossomed** as the rose. *Beauty has replaced ashes; oil of joy has rubbed out their mourning; & the garment of praise has done away w/heaviness.*
1. They had **seen & known & communed** with their Lord. They were now **full of Joy** and eager to tell all.
- C. Slide9c *The Christian goes **onward**, not to a night which **falls**, but to a dawn which **breaks**.*
- D. (33) They had to share their experience, **and** no one in **Emmaus** would understand.
1. One of the best signs of recovery from **depression** is a desire to be back among other believer's.
 2. So **the long discouraging walk** to Emmaus **now** became **a joyous run** to Jerusalem, with renewed strength and encouragement.
 3. **They take off in the** dark, **but** their **love** becomes **a lamp unto their feet**.
 - a) They didn't worry about the **danger**, **or** the **distance**.
- E. (34) [This is actually the 11 speaking] **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.**
1. Interesting, the earliest sermons in the church (in Acts) were about His **Resurrection**, **not** expositions of *His teachings*.
 - a) Nothing less would have turned **runaways** into **missionaries** overnight.
 - b) **They had good news to share and they couldn't wait to tell their story.**
 - c) **Great reminder: Speak what you know, testify what you have seen.**
 2. **Remember** the resurrection was preached **w/in 6 weeks** of the crucifixion, **in the very area** where His death had taken place. Scores of people could have refuted it, had it not taken place.
- F. When you've met w/Jesus, you should immediately go away to do His will.

1. **Not to emphasize creeds, doctrines, liturgies, & ceremonies, but to spread His loving spirit** in the world.
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.**
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.**
 - a) Jesus was as much the Son of God when he did **carpentry** as when He **preached sermons.**
 - b) **Proof:** before he had preached at all, the Voice said, *this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*
4. **Slide10,11** 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.**

G. Keywords: Mourners, Missionaries, Emmaus. disciples. stay, religion, communion meal, hearts burn, experiential.