

The Good Book

The Power of the Bible

Reading - Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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 recognising 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 recognised 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 recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Recap of Sunday Mornings Teaching

We all encounter scripture in different ways. We will all see different things in this story that we have just read - that's part of the power of scripture, God can speak to us in different ways, about different things using the same passage of scripture.

For some this passage is a;

- Story of discipleship
- Story of breaking bread
- Story of hope renewed - Sadness turns to hearts burning for the Lord.
- Story of resurrection - this what makes all the difference in this story.

Steve reminded us that the whole of scripture revolves around Jesus. God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ is witnessed to and prophesied about throughout the entire book.

In verse 27 Jesus shares with these 2 disciples of his about all the things 'concerning' him in the books of Moses and the Prophets. The word Luke uses for 'concerning' is the greek word *Peri*,

we can translate to be 'all the things centre around' Jesus. Scripture is powerful because it centres around Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

These 2 people were left the passage tells us with 'burning hearts'. We know fire in Scripture is seen as the power of God, the presence of God and the holiness of God. We will have read much about this in the daily reading plan recently. What would it look like if we were to have hearts burning with the power, presence, and holiness of God?

Let's pray, lord set our hearts on fire each day.

Study on Luke 24:13-35

Read Luke 24:13-35. What about this story strikes you as important, raises questions, or causes curiosity?

Jerusalem was a very chaotic city during and after the crucifixion of Jesus. Read Luke 24:13-17. Cleopas and the other disciple wanted to just get away for a while. What do you do when things in life become chaotic?

Put yourselves in the shoes of these two people. How do you think you would feel as you reflect on the death of Jesus, the one you had hoped would be your redeemer?

Read Luke 24:19. The two disciples called Jesus: "a mighty prophet" and "Jesus of Nazareth." They don't refer to Him as the Messiah or King. How do these two descriptions of Jesus in verse 19 give insight into what these two disciples thought of Him?

Read Luke 24:21. These two had lost hope. Discuss as a group what it must have been like for them to lose hope. The redeemer of Israel was dead. How do you deal with disappointment in life? When have you recently been surprised by God in moment or season of disappointment? What happened? How did it impact the way that you related to God?

Read Luke 24:25-27. Why do you think Jesus is slow to reveal himself?

In v27, Jesus says shares with these two people all that is said about him in the Old Testament. We don't know what exactly he told them, or what passages he opened to them, but Jesus did say in Matthew 5:17 that he came to "fulfill the law and the prophets." How does this idea impact your view of the Old Testament?

Here are a few passages in the Gospels that show how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament story. Pick one pairing. Read it and see if you can make the connection for how Jesus fulfills that passage/ story.

John 1:1-14 (OT = Gen. 1)// John 6:25-31 (OT = Ex. 16 // John 10:11-18 (OT = Ps. 23)

Read Luke 24:32. The two travellers just experienced Godly heartburn. They finally realised that God was in control the whole time and they just needed to have faith. Discuss a situation in your life that, after looking back, you realised God was in control of the whole time, even if you didn't believe it while everything was occurring.

Things to pray for:

Prayer points for church taken from our prayer diary;

- **Alf and Hilary Cooper** - For the church as it responds to potential upheaval in Chile which presents both challenges (curfews) and opportunities (some of the Christian youth are out evangelising and helping to clean up!). For protection and fruit from Alf's ministry preaching on buses and the metro. For wisdom and good health for Alf as he leads La Trinidad.
- **Youth and Children's Ministry** - For continued conversations with Youth For Christ about outreach to young people in Northampton. For developing links with those supporting primary schools in our town with their teaching of Christianity and collective worship. For our children and young people as they continue to study the word of God together in their groups. Please pray that they would grow in relationship with God and with each other.
- **Those working in science and technology**