

Burning Hearts

Luke 24:13-35

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

REFLECTION

This week we look at another post-resurrection text, of two travelers on their way home to Emmaus from Jerusalem, where they had been for Passover. The two travelers, Cleopas and his friend, are sad and heartbroken upon the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus appears to them on the road, though unrecognizable to them, asking "*what are you discussing?*" Cleopas sadly recounts the events of the three prior days, commenting that they had "*hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.*" Jesus calls them "*foolish and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared*" and begins to unfold scripture for them, interpreting about himself beginning with Moses. Upon their arrival to Emmaus, they invite Jesus to stay with them. When Jesus breaks bread, "*their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight*" (v. 31).

Upon recognizing Jesus, they realized that *their hearts had burned within them while talking to him on the road*. What a reminder that Jesus literally meets us **where** we are, as cliché as it can sound. We are prone to think it's our job to find Jesus, but on the contrary he shows up in the midst of our sorrow and sadness. **Where has Jesus met you? What part of your life resembles a road that would be the least likely place for Jesus to show up?**

Like these two friends' experience, we don't get to choose **when** Jesus will show up for us. **When have you experienced a time in your life waiting on God to show up? When did he show up for you?**

The **burning** that we feel in our hearts is often the Holy Spirit at work in us, though we may not realize it at the time. Sometimes it might be so loud we can't resist; other times it's quiet and we have to pay good attention. **What burning might you have in your heart right now? Pay careful attention this week to how God might be working through you by a burning in your heart.**