

- i. Nothing beyond the grave - No Eternal life – Our bodies decay and our souls cease to exist.
 - ii. Something beyond the grave - Eternal Life WITHOUT our body but ONLY with our Soul.
 - iii. Something beyond the grave - Eternal Life that starts with our soul but will eventually include our body as well - RESURRECTION
- Jesus is the first person in history to do this. Jesus is the prototype or first fruit of what all of us have to look forward to – That we too will be resurrected and given new bodies. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52: *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.* – Cleopas and Mary were to see that day what all believers can look forward to.

2.5 Conclusion

- Cleopas and Mary leave Jerusalem feeling that all their dreams have been crushed. As they walk home to Emmaus they meet a stranger who explains scripture to them in a way they never experienced before: *Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?* (Luke 24:32)
- They, along with the majority of Israel, thought that Jesus was coming to usher in a new earthly kingdom. As they walked they were going to discover that Jesus had come to deal with a much deeper problem. Their and our problem of sin. Our nature to do things our way rather than God's. They come to realise that only through Jesus' death are they set free from the bondage of sin.
- But they are going to be witnesses to something far more extraordinary. They are the second people to meet Jesus in his resurrected body. Cleopas and Mary were to see that day what all believers can look forward to.

3. Questions to consider at home

- 3.1 What were Cleopas and Mary talking about on their way home to Emmaus?
- 3.2 How had Cleopas and Mary managed to misinterpret scripture? How do we prevent ourselves from doing a similar thing?
- 3.3 *'Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?'* What does Jesus mean? What does this mean for Cleopas and Mary and for us?
- 3.4 *'Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.'* Why didn't they recognise Jesus before? What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- 3.5 Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important to the Christian faith?

Matthew Street - Easter Day - 9th April 2023



The St J's Group

Luke 24:13-35 - Hearts on fire Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

1. Talk Passage – 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 further. 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.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Introduction

- *'Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.'* (Luke 24:13-4). Cleopas and Mary are on their way home to Emmaus, a small village seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about all the unexpected events that had recently happened in Jerusalem during Passover. What have been the topics of our recent conversations? Maybe something unexpected has happened in our family, workplace or community which we too have been talking about.
- It was going to take Cleopas and Mary just over two hours to walk home. This two hour walk was going to be something that they never forgot. It was going to change their lives forever. As they walked home they were going to become aware of three important things:
 - i. Their grasp of scripture is weak. (verses 17-24)
 - ii. What Jesus came to do. (verse 25-26)
 - iii. Jesus has risen into his resurrected body - (verse 31)

2.2. Their grasp of scripture is weak. (verses 17-24)

- *'As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast.'* (Luke 24:15-16) Are you the only person on the planet, whoever you are, that hasn't heard all the things that have been going on they say: *'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'* (Luke 24:18)
- Cleopas and Mary think they know a great deal about Jesus: *'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him'* (Luke 24:19-20)
- They have even heard about the most recent events: *'In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'* (Luke 24:22-24)
- Jesus models to Cleopas and Mary something we all need to remember. We, like them, can sometimes think we know all about Jesus but actually we lack the whole picture. We can often misinterpret scripture if we do not rely on Jesus himself to be our teacher. As we read the Bible do we seek God's guidance? Are we looking for His fresh interpretation that will be relevant for our daily lives?
- *'Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.'* (Luke 24:27). With Jesus as their personal teacher their knowledge of the scriptures turns into understanding. *'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'* (Luke 24:32) Do our *'hearts burn within us'* as we regularly read God's word.
- Let us remember to always invite Jesus to join us as we read His word. Let us not be people who know a lot but understand little.

2.3 What Jesus came to do - (verse 25-26)

- Cleopas and Mary have become aware that their grasp of scripture is weak. If they along with the disciples had listened more carefully to Jesus when he was with them then, they like the rest of Israel, would have understood more clearly why Jesus had left heaven and come to earth.
- They, like everyone in Israel, had got the wrong end of the stick when it came to Jesus. But is there anything new in this? How many times have we approached scripture with our own agenda or agendas rather than seeking to come under the authority of scripture?
- Cleopas and Mary, along with the majority of Israel, thought that Jesus was coming to usher in a new earthly kingdom. What they were looking forward to was Jesus coming and being the new David or Solomon and releasing them from their bondage to the Roman authorities and establishing a new Jewish state in its place.
- But Jesus had come not to establish an earthly kingdom but a spiritual one.
- Jesus had come to deal with a far greater problem than their bondage to Rome. He had come to deal with their bondage to sin.
- The apostle Paul; explains this brilliantly in his letter to the church in Rome: *'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.'* (Romans 3:23-4)
- It is only when we come to understand how totally and completely mired in our sin we are verse 23: *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* that we will come to see how incredible God's rescue is and how much we owe to Jesus verse 24: *are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*
- God has mounted an amazing rescue plan in the form of Jesus to deal with our sin and its curse, which is spiritual death: *'For the wages of sin is death'* (Romans 6:23) Jesus, a Jew, a member of God's covenant people lives a perfect life. He is the only person who has satisfied the law. He is the only person never to have sinned. We are set free by God's grace (**God's Riches At Christ's Expense**). Jesus pays the penalty that we rightly deserved.
- Jesus reminds Cleopas and Mary: *How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?'* (Luke 24:27)

2.4 Jesus had risen into his resurrected body - (verse 31)

- Having become aware that their grasp of scripture is weak and what Jesus had done on the cross they now ask this stranger to stay with them: *'As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. 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.'* (Luke 24:28-9)
- *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 'Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.'* (Luke 24:30-1)
- Cleopas and Mary suddenly realise that they have been walking and talking with none other than the resurrected Jesus. They are the second people, following Mary Magdalene to discover that Jesus is not dead, but alive.
- There would have been three conflicting views about what happens when people died in Jesus' day. In essence these views continue to this day.