

### Difference Does It Make, Part 3

**Luke 24:13-34 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they walked along, they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus Himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup> But God kept them from recognizing Him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and He was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified Him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped He was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

<sup>22</sup> "Then some women from our group of His followers were at His tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup> They said His body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

<sup>28</sup> By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if He were going on, <sup>29</sup> but they begged Him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So He went home with them. <sup>30</sup> As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then He broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And at that moment He disappeared!

<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." <sup>1</sup>

For the last 2 weeks, we have been trying to better understand the difference it makes that Jesus rose from the dead. The first week was Resurrection Sunday when we proclaimed that He is risen! Then last week we looked at the passage from 1 Peter 1 that reminded us that it is because Jesus rose from the dead that we can have new life with God. Our hope is a living hope/expectation because Jesus rose! And we have an inheritance that is kept in heaven for us. Because Jesus rose from the dead and because we have new life through Him, we are now saved/delivered from rebellion/sin against God and will be delivered/saved from the wrath of God that will come when Jesus returns.

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<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Lk 24:13-36.

Now let's look at this story. Two Jesus-followers were walking toward Emmaus from Jerusalem on the day that Jesus rose from the grave. In fact, they had been with the other Jesus-followers when the women came back and told the whole group that the tomb was empty. These two men were discussing everything that had happened from Passover to that day in Jerusalem as they walked the road.

Suddenly, Jesus walked up to them and asked them what they were talking about. Now, the first thing that comes to my mind is to wonder why in the world they didn't recognize Him. But verse 16 tells us that God kept them from recognizing Him. And Mark 16:12 tells us that Jesus was in a different form. But the fact remains that they did not recognize Him.

Both of these guys were stunned that there could be anyone in Jerusalem who didn't know all the things that had occurred over the three previous days. Not only were they stunned, but Luke tells us that they were sad – they had sadness written across their faces. So they told Jesus – “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that happened there in the last few days.” We get the impression that these men were discouraged and disappointed because God did not do what they wanted Him to do. They saw the glory of the kingdom, but they failed to understand the suffering.<sup>2</sup>

Now let's stop and think about how their statement might have effected Jesus. After all, the Scripture tells us that He had been telling them that He was going to die in Jerusalem ever since they were in Caesarea Philippi where Peter had declared that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16, Mark 8, and Luke 9) And Matthew 16:21 tells us that “from that time on, Jesus began to tell His disciples plainly that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day He would be raised from the dead.” So Jesus had been teaching His followers for 31 weeks – almost 8 months - that he was going to be killed in Jerusalem but would rise from the dead in three days. Three of the four Gospels say that He told them that He would die but be raised on the third day.

Now, Jesus is talking with two of His followers and they are astounded that this stranger didn't know about the death of Jesus. It had to both sadden and frustrate Jesus as He heard their statement. But He simply asked them to tell Him what they were talking about. There is a touch of humor in Luke 24:19 when Jesus asked, “What things?” He was the main character of all that had happened in Jerusalem, and now He was asking them to tell Him what occurred! <sup>3</sup>

They tell Him about this Jesus and how they had hoped that He was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. They even noted that it all happened just three days prior. And they told Him about the women who went to the tomb and found it empty. They even told Him that the men confirmed the women's statement. And the longer Cleopas talked, the more he indicted himself. But he was like the majority of the people at that time. What was their basic problem? They did not believe all that the prophets had written about the Messiah. That was the problem with most of the people in that day: they saw Messiah as a conquering King, but they did not see Him as a Suffering Servant. As they read the Old Testament, they saw the glory but not the suffering, the crown but not the cross.<sup>4</sup> They were looking for the Messiah who would free them from Roman rule, but they weren't looking for the Messiah who would suffer and die for the sins of the world.

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<sup>2</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 278.

<sup>3</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 278.

<sup>4</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 279.

Maybe I should stop right here and ask us, how is it that we have missed the Messiah? Oh, we talk about His wonderful miracles and teachings. We talk about His compassion, but we live as though what He said, didn't come from the very Son of God. It's just all a very nice story. We don't want to give up our own thoughts about what will make us happy in this life. We want Him to agree with us instead of us bowing ourselves before the King. Not only that, but is it possible that we don't believe the prophets of the Old Testament or even the writers of the New Testament? We read the words, but many times, they have zero effect upon us. In so many ways, we are just like those two men and many of the people there in Jerusalem.

And then Jesus begins speaking. And He is not too complimentary. <sup>25</sup> "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?"

And then Jesus began to walk them through the Scriptures. He probably started at Genesis 3:15, the first prophecy about One who would come who would crush the head of Satan, and Satan would strike the heel of this One. Maybe then Jesus moved to the story of Abraham and his son, Isaac and perhaps Jesus talked about how Abraham had stated that God would provide the lamb. I'm sure He talked about the kinsman-redeemer, and Shiloh, the ruler from Judah. All that is in Genesis. He probably then went to Exodus and discussed the Passover Lamb whose blood saved the Israelites from the death angel. He may have talked about the water from the rock and reminded those men that Jesus said that He was the living water. He may have talked about the manna in the wilderness and reminded them that Jesus said that He was the bread of life. Then He probably mentioned the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement with a perfect sacrifice. Maybe He talked about the bronze serpent put on the pole that healed anyone who was bitten by one of the snakes – if they would just look at that serpent on the pole. He might have even reminded them that Moses said in Deuteronomy (18:15) that a Prophet who was greater than Moses was coming and they must listen and obey everything He said.

Doubtless, Jesus would have taken them to Isaiah 52 and 53 – the prophecy about the suffering Servant who would give His life as a ransom for many but then would live to see the great number of people who would be bought back/who would be part of God's kingdom as a result. I'm sure Jesus talked about Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have You abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?" – words that Jesus had spoken from the cross. And that chapter notes many prophetic portions that were things that actually happened to Jesus. We could continue through the Old Testament and find this Savior, Redeemer in each of the books. AI says that the Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies and hundreds of types (symbolic foreshadowings) detailing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

Maybe Jesus even reminded those men that John the Baptist had declared to the crowd at the Jordan River that day – "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".

Well, it was getting toward sundown, and they had arrived in Emmaus. When Jesus acted as though He would go on alone, they asked Him to come home with them. They wanted more truth, even though they did not know who the Stranger was. All they knew was that their hearts were "burning" within them<sup>5</sup>. Remember, they did not know they were talking with Jesus Himself until He broke the bread and blessed it.

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<sup>5</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, [\*The Bible Exposition Commentary\*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 279.

How often do we come to church and listen and even participate but yet we do not realize that we are in the presence of our God, the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Jesus Himself? How often have we heard the truth but not been awake spiritually to allow the truth to change us?

We are so like those men who had been with Jesus and heard Him for 8 months telling them about all that was going to happen. Then when it happened, it was as though they had never heard it at all. And they missed out on the excitement and joy and peace that they could have been experiencing because they didn't believe until He opened their minds again to everything that was written in the Scriptures.

Many of us have read much of the Bible several times. We've heard and experienced His truth, and yet, now that He has been gone for almost 2,000 years, we've gotten so covered up with life that we have difficulty letting His truths change us. Jesus is coming soon and we must get our lives right with Him and tell everyone we see, that Jesus is the Messiah. And He is the coming King.

Gary and I went to see "A Great Awakening". It's an excellent movie. It reminds us of the time before the establishment of our federal government. The colonies on the brink of collapse. But Rev. George Whitefield came from England and preached. He united an entire generation with his thundering sermons and proclamations of liberty. One of his statements stands out so much in my mind. He said more than once, "Awake o sleeper!" referring to what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5 and to what Isaiah wrote in chapter 60. Folks, we must wake up and be part of what God is doing instead of sleeping and missing it! What difference does it make in your life that Jesus rose from the dead?