

The Third Day

Luke 24:13-35 NKJV

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

¹⁴And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

¹⁵So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

¹⁶But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

¹⁸Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

¹⁹And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

²¹But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

²²Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

²³When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

"The Cross Through the Tomb"



As the title indicates, the purpose of this book is to set forth the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in the light of His resurrection. Too often even evangelical believers think that the climactic event in the life of the Lord Jesus was His death. It was not. Rather, it was His resurrection. To be sure, He had to die in order to forgive our sins and justify us before God. But had He not risen from the grave, we could not have eternal life, nor could we live a life of holiness in a sinful world.

We have a risen Savior who is our living contemporary. He has not only saved us for heaven, but He is able to bring heaven into our souls as we daily walk with Him in the power of His risen life.

Our desire is that of the Apostle Paul, who wrote to the Philippians: "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:10-11).

May the Holy Spirit cause the Risen Christ to become a reality in your daily life!

—DONALD GREY BARNHOUSE

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Chapter 18

"Marks of True Devotion"

Standing by the mother of Jesus when our Lord was dying on the cross was Mary, the wife of Cleopas, whom tradition believes to have been the sister of Mary (John 19:25). Probably Cleopas, too, was in the group that watched the Savior die. To this pair, the aunt and uncle of the Lord Jesus — if we may accept the traditional story — was accorded a great honor.



Blindness

On the morning of the resurrection, Cleopas and Mary left Jerusalem for the strangest journey of their lives. It was a journey that needs to be traveled by every Christian. It started out in disbelief and sadness. It was a family sadness — their beloved sister had “lost” that strange Son of hers. When they awakened that morning they heard astonishing news.

Certain women reported that the tomb in which Jesus’ body had been buried was empty and that angels had said that He was alive. Some of the men ran to the tomb and brought back a confirming report — the tomb was indeed empty. Nevertheless, Cleopas and Mary started for their home in Emmaus (Luke 24).

They did not believe in Christ’s resurrection — they were miserable.

As they walked along the road discussing events of the preceding days, suddenly the Lord Jesus Himself drew near to them. They did not recognize Him — they had last seen Him scarred and broken. His face was marred more than any man and His body more than any of the sons of men (Isaiah 52:14).

He asked what they were talking about. *“Cleopas answered and said to Him, ‘Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?’”* (Luke 24:18). The Lord drew them out with the question, *“What things?”* He was about to teach one of His greatest lessons.

They told Him the story. How simple were the words on their lips! How full of understanding! They answered the Lord that “Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all people,” had been delivered by the rulers to be condemned to die and had been crucified.

And then came the artless confession that shows all that was in their minds, that reveals the cause of the blindness and of the blindness of all in their generation who did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. “We trusted that it had been he should have redeemed Israel!”

How ignorant they were of the ways of God and the Word of God! They were looking for triumph without sacrifice, for the Feast of the Trumpets and Feast of the Tabernacles without the Feast of the Passover. They thought that a Joshua could lead the people into the promised land before Moses had led them out of Egypt.

And what had He done by dying and rising again? He had redeemed Israel and the whole world. But redeemed them from what? From sin and death. Oh, that! Poor Cleopas and his wife were looking for redemption from Rome. They would have been satisfied with a Messiah who brought down angels to chase all the

²⁴And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

²⁵Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

²⁸Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

²⁹But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.

³⁰Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

³²And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

³⁵And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.



Roman soldiers out of Palestine. Is it any wonder that Jesus said, *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"* (Luke 24:25).

The unbelief of Israel was their failure to apply all prophecies of the Old Testament to the Messiah.

The First Sermon

To this couple in these circumstances Jesus preached the first sermon of the Christian era. The date was the day of His resurrection. The place was a country road outside Jerusalem. The audience was composed of one Jewish peasant couple. The theme was, "Jesus Christ in the Old Testament."

The first searching question was asked: *"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"* (Luke 24:26).

Clearly He was saying, *"The Old Testament had to be fulfilled. You have it in your hands. All I have accomplished has been according to those Scriptures."*

Christ's Good News

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

He died as a Lamb, to cleanse us by pouring out His life in shedding His blood. Thus Leviticus 17:11 is the John 3:16 of the Old Testament: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement, by reason of the life."*

Christ began with the writings of Moses, and I have often wondered which of the passages He

used. His audience was so spellbound that later they said, *"Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while*

He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32). If you want the experience of the burning heart, look for the Lord Jesus in the Old Testament.

Christ Constrained!

The trio reached the home of Cleopas, and the Lord took one step away as though He would go on.

God is love, and He will not violate your heart. He wants you to love Him freely. Thus they stood; thus you may stand today. He will not move farther away unless you take a step away from Him. If you move toward Him, even slightly, if you breathe one sigh of hope or expectation, if your heart surges with desire for Him, He will come with you. *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (James 4:8).

They constrained Him, saying, *"Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent"* (Luke 24:29). Christ is so easily constrained! Let that sentence stand by itself. Cleopas and his wife knew that here was no ordinary person. His vast knowledge of the Scrip-

tures indicated that he was at least a famous Rabbi. Yet they did not hesitate to invite Him to share their food and spend the night in their home.

Cleopas probably had to build a fire. Mary had to begin her work in a kitchen cold for many days. But finally everything was ready and they sat down to the table for what they thought was the beginning of a meal, but which turned out to

Then on the third day, He brought light into that dark tomb. He took His body and left the cloth, like a chrysalis abandoned by a butterfly.



Then an angel rolled away the stone from the doorway — not to let the Lord Jesus out, but to let the disciples in. He was not there. He had risen.

—DGB



be something so tremendous that I doubt whether they ate much.

There are times, as the Lord taught His disciples, that we have meat to eat that others know not of (John 4:32).

Christ Manifested!

As the three sat at the table, the Lord Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to them. *“Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight” (Luke 24:31).*

But not out of their hearts — He was there forevermore.

Decisive Action

There was no consternation in the little house, but there was immediate decision. *“So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem” (Luke 24:33).* Recognition of the risen Lord Jesus always leads to decisive action.

Cleopas and his wife immediately desired to tell others about the risen Lord.

How can we leave loved ones in ignorance when we know the power and the presence of the risen Lord? And if they already know about Him and we know about Him, we must desire to communicate with each other.

One of surest marks of the new birth is that we love the brethren. John says, *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren” (1 John 3:14).*

It was already near evening when the trio had arrived at Emmaus. There was certainly time consumed in preparing the meal. The manifestation and disappearance of Jesus must have occurred at the very end of the day; perhaps darkness had already set in. The decision to return to Jerusalem demanded courage as well as resolution, but man and wife set out on the road.

How different the return journey! They had left Jerusalem in despair; they had been joined Him who turned travel into wonder; and they were now returning full of light, although they were walking in darkness.

Every step must have been filled with memory. Remember this rock? He stood with His hand just there, as He told us that Jesus Himself was the Seed of the woman. And here is the place where we stopped while He told of Jesus as the Root, the Branch, the Lamb and the Lion.

And so it went. Hearts throbbing, hearts soaring, and then the lights of Jerusalem. The narrow streets. Knocking at the door. Cautious opening. Joyful exclamations.

It seems that those of Jerusalem got their word in first. *“The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” (Luke 24:34).*

Probably the Lord allowed this little phrase to be spoken first to give them the assurance and courage to tell their lengthy story: *“And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread” (Luke 24:35).*

While they were describing how they recognized Him in the breaking of the bread, Christ Himself stood in the room where the disciples were gathered.

Resurrection Power

There is no record of when Cleopas and Mary returned to Emmaus. The same night? The next day? Some time later? It makes no difference. The home of Emmaus was never the same again.

When a married couple have seen the risen Lord Jesus Christ together, life and home can never be the same again. This is the quintessence of Christian marriage. In fact, any marriage that does not have this factor in it falls short of being what God wants marriage to be. Christian marriage is the husband, the wife, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The more closely we know the Lord, the more intimate we shall be with Him. The time will come when we shall know Him in the breaking of the bread at our table. We shall see Him in the closest intimacies of life. Love will flow and overflow. It is only when we thus know Him that we shall understand that



“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (I John 4:16).

The Scriptures Opened

If you do not know the power of the resurrection, bid Him come in to abide with you. He will — and you will experience the three “openings” of Luke 24: First, *“He opened the Scriptures.”*

Next, when they saw Him take bread and bless it, *“their eyes were opened* and they recognized Him” (v. 31). When they rejoined the other disciples and Jesus stood among them.

Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures (Luke 24:44-45).

- In Genesis 3, we see Him as the Seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent’s head, while His heel would be bruised. At Calvary, Christ did bruise Satan’s head when He accomplished our redemption.
- In Genesis, too, He is the Seed of Abraham in whom all the families of earth are blessed.
- The life of Joseph perfectly typified the Lord Jesus; the beloved of his father, rejected by his brethren and exalted to be the savior of his people.
- In Exodus, Christ is pre-figured by the Passover Lamb whose blood redeemed the first-born and by the manna which fed the people day by day.
- And all furnishings of the Tabernacle spoke of Him.
- In Numbers, He is Rock from which the water came forth.

- In Deuteronomy, He is one whose everlasting arms support His people.
- Joshua met Him as the captain of the Lord’s host — while in the Book of Judges, He appears to the parents of Samson as the One whose name is Wonderful.



- Psalms tell of His suffering and eventual triumph.
- In Proverbs, He is the wisdom of God.
- Isaiah saw Him as the man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, led as a lamb to the slaughter, pouring out His soul unto death for the sins of His people.
- Daniel beheld Him the Ancient of days and as the great Stone which will crush nations.
- In Hosea, He is the Son whom God called out of Egypt, while Zechariah beholds Him riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, presenting Himself as the King of Israel.

- Zechariah also sees Him for thirty pieces of silver.
- Lastly, Malachi sees Him as the Lord who suddenly comes to His temple and as the Sun of Righteousness rises with healing in His wings.

These are but a few of the many, many Old Testament pictures and prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you open the Bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and see your glorious Savior on every page, you will never be the same again.



May your heart burn with true devotion to Him as you read of His great love in coming to earth to be crucified and buried for your sins. May your eyes be opened when you see the risen Lord who was raised again for your justification.