

Burning Hearts

Luke 24.28–43

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • March 5, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2023

Scripture Reader and Reading: Wayne Duncan – Luke 24.25–27

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on the word of God

Prelude:

I. Two bewildered men walked and talked sadly

- A. of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth,
- B. disappointed that he had not redeemed Israel,
 - 1. restoring Davidic glory.
 - 2. Their hopes had disappeared, and
 - a) As King Solomon said:

**12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
 But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.**

– Proverbs 13.12

- b) Who knows how sick they had let their hearts become?

II. However, they were about to experience the second half of that Proverb.

- A. As they walked and talked,
- B. Jesus himself joined them, but
 - 1. he did something to keep them from recognizing him.
 - 2. He asked what they were discussing, and
 - a) they expressed shock
 - b) that he did not know what had happened in Jerusalem.

III. Then after they told him what had happened,

- A. that the Romans had crucified Jesus of Nazareth and
- B. that there was a report of his resurrection from the dead,
 - 1. that Jesus then began to expound upon

2. what the Bible had said about the Christ,
 - a) revealing that they did not
 - b) believe all that the Scriptures had said about the Christ,
 - (1) otherwise, they would not have sick hearts.
 - (2) As he exposed them to the full message of the Bible,
 - (a) their hearts were excited, but
 - (b) they did not know why.

IV. They finally reached their destination and

- A. invited the unknown Jesus
- B. to stay with them.

V. This is where we pick up the story.

Persuasion:

I. Luke 24.28–29 • Whom Have You Entertained?

28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But 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.

- A. Whether Jesus or not,
 1. if you have someone who can show you
 2. the Christ in Moses and in all the prophets,
 - a) you do not want him to go, but
 - b) you invite him to stay, because
 - (1) the more you get the word of God in you,
 - (2) the more you will want the God of the word in you.
- B. They were like Mary at the feet of Jesus.
 1. They were like all the people I have taught over the years,

2. who when I show them the truth of the Scriptures, and then
 - a) see the excitement on their faces, and
 - b) they want more, because
 - (1) whether they realize it or not,
 - (2) they are listening to the Creator himself!
- C. These two men did not know that it was Jesus, but
 1. they did a good thing wanting to spend more time with this stranger.
 2. They wanted him in their home. As it is written:

1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

– Hebrews 13.1–2

II. Luke 24.30–31 • Breaking Bread with Jesus

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

- A. They knew him
 1. in the breaking of the bread,
 2. symbolic of when he was breaking spiritually by Scripture exposition.
- B. Then he vanished.
 1. Although he had his old body back,
 2. he would do things differently,
 - a) such as vanishing and appearing,
 - b) which he would do later.

III. Luke 24.32 • Burning Hearts

32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart[s] burn within us while He

talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

- A. When they were finally able to recognize Jesus,
 - 1. they confessed the awesomeness of the event.
 - 2. Jesus fills the entire Bible.
 - a) Think of him as you read and
 - b) see what happens.
- B. Their hearts burned
 - 1. while Jesus talked with them on the road and
 - 2. while Jesus opened the Scriptures.
- C. What was happening to them,
 - 1. as Jesus expounded upon the Scriptures,
 - 2. is they were developing faith, because
 - a) that is how we arrive at faith,
 - b) as it is written:

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

– Romans 10.17

IV. Luke 24.33–35 • The Lord Is Risen!

33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

- A. What is the first thing that they wanted to do?
 - 1. They wanted to share
 - 2. what they had discovered.

- B. Then all that they did was explain to the rest what happened.
 - 1. Explaining the Bible does not have to be complicated.
 - 2. Just show people what it says.

V. Luke 24.36–37 • Peace

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

- A. It is understandable in their state of unbelief
 - 1. that they would be terrified and frightened, and
 - 2. that they assumed he was a spirit.
- B. Knowing of their fear,
 - 1. he spoke peace to them, because
 - 2. he knew they needed to hear peace.
- C. He was not trying to frighten them.

VI. Luke 24.38–40 • Examine the Evidence

38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

- A. He presented evidence to them that it was him.
- B. He wanted them to see his hands and his feet.
 - 1. They would then be able to see
 - 2. that it was the body they saw crucified.
- C. He wanted them to handle him.
 - 1. They would then see
 - 2. that he had a solid body and

- a) was not a mere spirit.
 - b) Having made an examination of him,
 - (1) they could tell that he was not a spirit, because
 - (2) a spirit does not have flesh and bones.
- D. All of them, especially the 11 and Matthias, who would replace Judas,
- 1. had to be fully assured
 - 2. that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
 - a) the same man with whom
 - b) they had spent the last 3.5 years.
- E. They did exactly what Jesus wanted them to do:

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have *heard*, which we have *seen with our eyes*, which we have *looked upon*, and our *hands have handled*, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested, and we have *seen*, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have *seen and heard* we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

– 1 John 1.1–4

- 1. And our lives have never been the same since, because
 - 2. we can know without a doubt that Jesus rose from the dead.
- F. Here is the thing about his resurrected body and his glorified body:
- 1. He still bears the prints in his hands and in his feet.
 - 2. Revelation confirms this amazing truth:

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

– Revelation 5.6

VII. Luke 24.41–43 • Disbelieved for Joy

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

A. This was like when we say: “I can’t believe it!”

1. when hearing unexpected good news.
2. Jesus had promised:

22 “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

– John 16.22

B. Then unsurprisingly,

1. he asked if they had any food there.
2. His suffering
 - a) from his mental anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane,
 - b) to his beatings,
 - c) to his trials,
 - d) to his scourging,
 - e) then the crucifixion,
 - (1) had burned probably any fat stored in his body.
 - (2) His body was begging for food.
3. Do you remember the pilot Sully?
 - a) He is the one who landed the airliner in the Hudson River.
 - b) He lost 13 pounds in 24 hours. He said:

“I had lost 13 pounds. My wife was shocked by my appearance. My skin looked white, my eyes looked sunken in as if I had been starved, and my body was using itself up because of this stress.”

- (1) If you watch the movie about him, or
- (2) do some reading on that whole experience,
 - (a) it is amazing what he experienced,
 - (b) even after landing the plane.
 - i) The stress drained him that much.
 - ii) However, how does his stress compare to that of Jesus?

4. Listen to what Mark wrote about Jesus

- a) even before all of his suffering began:

32 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. 34 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.”

– Mark 14.32–34

- b) How many points of stress did he have?
5. Surely, he lost more than 13 pounds.
6. Although he had fasted before for forty days and forty nights,
- a) this was different and
 - b) the demands upon his body would have been phenomenal.
 - (1) So, yes, he was hungry.
 - (2) This fits in perfectly with what would have been true
 - (a) of anyone going through what he endured.
 - (b) This was Jesus.
 - i) This was indeed the one who had suffered crucifixion.

ii) He was not a ghost.

C. They watched him eat that broiled fish and honeycomb.

1. In so doing, he presented to them
2. even more evidence that he was the resurrected Jesus of Nazareth, for
 - a) you see, they knew how he ate.
 - b) Nathan and Wayne

Exhortation:

I. What problem did Luke present to us?

- A. Having a foolish heart that is slow to believe.
- B. What was the solution to such a problem?
 1. Listen to Jesus,
 2. listen to the word of God, and
 3. see Jesus in the Scriptures.

II. How do we know that all these things truly happened?

- A. For one thing, no one in the story believed initially.
- B. Something happened that changed them all.

III. They examined the evidence.

- A. Sometimes unbelievers, namely, atheists and evolutionists
- B. simply call it nothing more than belief or faith,
 1. as though belief and faith
 2. lack evidence and
 3. are less than knowledge.

IV. We cannot be blind to the total message of the Bible, but

- A. we must desire to see it all, for then
- B. we will develop a balanced view
 1. of God,

2. of Jesus,
3. of the Scriptures,
4. of life,

V. When we learn to see Jesus in everything in the Bible,

- A. we will begin to understand
- B. why the resurrection is so important.
 1. We will also understand
 2. why the resurrected Christ said to the apostles and others,
 - a) "Peace to you."
 - b) So then listen to this:

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

– Hebrews 13.20–21

- (1) The resurrection of Jesus:
 - (a) Makes us complete in every good work to do his will, and
 - (b) Jesus works in us what is well pleasing in his sight.

VI. As Paul told the Romans:

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

– Romans 5.1