

RESURRECTION 2024
LUKE 24:13-32
MY HEART'S BURNING!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Luke chapter 24 as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Have you ever thought about those days that were most important to you?

They may be . . .

The day you got married!

The day you got that new job!

The day you bought that car you always wanted!

The day you were pregnant and then the birth of your child!

And I think for all of us, the most important day for us is the day that we met our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The day we got saved because it changed everything!

In our study this morning we are going to focus on two people who were traveling. Make no mistake about it, the past few days were tough for them, and they had no idea what was going to happen to them. They had no idea that what was going to happen that day would not only change their lives, but it would change the course of human history!

Keep in mind that Jesus was crucified. He was placed in the tomb with about a hundred pounds of burial spices placed with cloth wrapped around His body. Sealing the tomb with about a one-ton stone.

Not only that but we see that Pilate placed Roman soldiers to guard the tomb so no one could steal the body of Jesus and claim that He rose from the grave. And on that stone was a Roman seal that could not be broken.

So there was no way that anyone was going to steal the body of Jesus.

There is no way that Jesus just passed out and rose up and moved the one-ton stone and snuck past the guards.

What the Scriptures tell us, just what Jesus told His disciples would happen, was that like Jonah who was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)

And here it is, that third day and the Scriptures show us that Jesus rose from the grave!

This is foundational to the Christian faith or as Paul tells us, **“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”** I Corinthians 15:1-4.

The Gospel message is simple.

Jesus Christ, Almighty God became flesh and dwelt among us to save us from our sins.

He was crucified on the cross of Calvary paying in full the debt we owed and could never pay!

He rose from the grave the third day showing that He is not only God but that we too one day will receive our resurrection bodies just as He did if we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior!

And if this did not happen, then we would be in trouble! Henry Morris put it like this. He wrote, ***“The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place, then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God, and the Christian faith is absolute truth.”***

And as you look at the evidence, it is overwhelming that Jesus rose from the grave. If He didn't, how could the disciples tell everyone that He did. It would be easy to prove that He didn't by just finding the body.

Or, if they could have stolen the body, which would be impossible with the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb, how could over 500 people see the risen Lord if He did not rise from the dead! (I Corinthians 15:6)

Let me share this with you. It shows the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are told,

The greatest miracle of all history was about to take place. No human being had ever returned to this world with a brand-new eternal body that was impervious to disease and the ravages of time.

But Jesus Christ, the God-Man would arise out of the dark realm of death. He would make appearances to His followers and display to the world the miracle of miracles!

Because of the resurrection, many doubters would simply argue that He had not died but was only in an unconscious state.

Others would argue that His resurrection is simply a fabricated story created by the apostles.

Others believed that Jesus had a spiritlike body that was not truly flesh and blood.

But the resurrection story, with all of its many evidences, stands as the corner stone of truth encompassing both the Old and New Testaments!

- Mal Couch, The Gospel of Luke – Christ, the Son of Man, p. 227

Absolutely. And what I want you to see this morning is that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can change lives, it has changed lives and will continue to change lives.

As we pick up our study this morning, Jesus has risen from the grave, and He is going to run into two men most people believe, but as we will see it may be a husband and wife and they were traveling to a village called Emmaus.

I have called our study – ***MY HEART'S BURNING!***

And as we dig in you will see why.

I have also broken down the verses we will be looking at into these main points. They are,

A SAD WALK – LUKE 24:13-14

A SAD DAY – LUKE 24:15-24

A NEW DAY – LUKE 24:25-27

BURNING HEARTS – LUKE 24:28-32

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Luke chapter 24 beginning in verse 13 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

LUKE 24

VERSES 13-14

Let me give you the timeframe here. It is now Sunday afternoon and two disciples of Jesus leave Jerusalem heading for home, to Emmaus, which is northwest of Jerusalem and about seven miles away. It would take them about three hours to walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Remember what I have called these verses – *A SAD WALK!*

Why was this – *A SAD WALK?*

Keep in mind that these are two of the disciples of Jesus. They loved Him and they may have been with him for 3 years.

Then what is the problem?

The problem is that the One that they loved so much was crucified! All their hope was now gone. And they were talking to each other about this, and I am sure it was a very sad discussion.

What were they going to do now?

They were heading home and back to the way things were!

Now please don't come to the conclusion that they lost their love for Jesus. Not at all. Their hearts are broken over this!

But their dreams were shattered!

They still believed in Him but maybe not to the extent that they believed several days before when Jesus was alive.

Listen to what we read here in Luke 24:19-21, “**. . . 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, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But 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.’**”

You see, they were *HOPING* that Jesus would be the One who was going to redeem Israel. Break them free from the bondage of Rome! But that hope was dashed and now, nothing more to do but go home, back to the old life, the old ways!

Why did they feel this way?

Because the lost sight of the promises that the Lord had given to them. And that can happen in our lives when difficulty, tragedy, tough times come our way. We lose sight of those promises that God has given to us, and we end up losing hope!

What promises did the Lord give to them?

He told them three times that He was going to be crucified and that He would be raised from the dead on the third day!

We are told in Matthew 16:21, **“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”**

And we also see this in Matthew 17:22-23 and Mark 9:30-32. This was something they were aware of, but they never really believed it!

Remember what He said in Matthew 12:40, **“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

And just as Jonah came out of the belly of that great fish, so too will the Son of God, Jesus rise from the grave!

In John 2:19 we are told, **“... ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”**

He is speaking not of the literal Temple, but His body!

For whatever reason, they did not take these promises that Jesus gave to them to heart. They ignored them or didn't believe them. And the reason may be as simple as what happened to Jesus did not fit what they believed regarding the Messiah.

They believed that the Messiah was going to set up the Kingdom, and He will, but it was not time yet! First, He had to pay for the sins of this world before the Kingdom could be set up!

As they are traveling back to Emmaus, they are discussing the events that have transpired; the death of their Lord, the one they placed all their hope in. And they are broken. They are hopeless!

Make no mistake about it, this was – ***A SAD WALK!***

As we read on, we will also see that this was – ***A SAD DAY!***

VERSES 15-24

As these two disciples are walking home to Emmaus, Jesus comes alongside them, and He begins to walk with them.

This was not an uncommon practice. Traveling with others helped to pass the time as they were traveling, and they also had the protection of being in a group. So these men did not see anything strange with this.

The interesting thing here is that they did not recognize it was Jesus who was walking with them.

Why didn't they recognize the One they loved so much?

We are told in Luke 24:16, "**But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.**"

So God placed this veil over their eyes so they could not recognize that it was Jesus.

Why did He do that?

Because they were looking at things through the eyes of unbelief and when you do that you will not be able to see Jesus.

I truly believe that their eyes were opened when they began to believe, and we will see that as we read on.

And as much as that was a problem for these men, this unbelief, we still see that today even among Christians who block Jesus out because of the situation they find themselves in.

Be careful, God is still on the throne, and He is still in control!

And is there anything too difficult for the Lord?

Absolutely not!

It is as Paul said in Romans 4:20-22 in regard to the faith of Abraham. He said, **“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’”**

May we have that kind of faith, that trusts in the promises of God and not only trusts in them, but we believe that what God has promised us He is more than able to bring to pass!

And what we are going to see is that Jesus is trying to draw out their faith.

Notice what He said to them in Luke 24:17, **“... ‘What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?’”**

Jesus knows that they are sad, that their conversation is one of hopelessness. It was not only – *A SAD WALK* but it was also – *A SAD DAY!*

Now let me also say this. I think we all assume that these are two men traveling on the road to Emmaus, and that may not be the case, as I have said when we opened up our study.

We know that one of them was a man and his name was Cleopas. We see that in Luke 24:18. But the other person we are not told what their name is or if it is a man who a woman.

What is interesting to me is that in John 19:25 we are told, **“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas [or Cleophas], and Mary Magdalene.”**

It is very possible that these two were husband and wife and they were traveling home from Jerusalem!

Others feel that it is Simon because in Luke 24:34 it says that when these two went back to Jerusalem that they told the disciples, **“. . . ‘The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’”**

So many believe it was Cleopas and Simon who were the two walking on the road to Emmaus.

Now, when they speak of Simon here, I believe they are speaking of Peter, for we are told in I Corinthians 15:5 about those who witnessed the risen Lord, **“and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”**

I tend to believe it was his wife, Mary, that was with him, but in either case they both were sad.

And what we are seeing here is that Jesus is drawing their faith out, dealing with those issues that are preventing them to believe and He does the same with us.

Look at how hopeless they are at this point. Everything they placed their hope in has been taken away as Jesus was put to death.

They left Jerusalem dejected and hopeless and they couldn’t believe that this person who was walking with them knew nothing about all that had happened a few days earlier!

But of course, Jesus knew, it was Him they were speaking of. But once again Jesus is drawing out their faith, allowing them to express their feelings with the ultimate goal of having their faith grow, that they would believe!

Now look at what they knew about Jesus.

They knew Jesus was a prophet of God who ***was mighty in deed*** – He raised the dead, He caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, and He freed those who were demon possessed, and-so-on.

He was mighty in word - the people were amazed because when He spoke, He did so with authority.

They also knew that He was crucified – they were there in Jerusalem when this happened.

They also knew that He promised to redeem Israel – and now that has not happened.

And they heard that others had seen the risen Lord, they had seen Jesus, but they did not believe this to be true!

Here we see this couple downcast, hopeless, in despair. You see, they were looking for Jesus to establish the Kingdom Age where righteousness will reign, but that is not going to happen as their Messiah was put to death and now it has been three days.

You can imagine how they were feeling, the hopelessness of their situation. They thought Jesus was the one, but now, as they look at the events that had transpired, they felt they were wrong!

Why were they like this?

Because they did not believe the power of God and His Word!

But that power that was available to them is available to us today. Paul put it this way in Hebrews 4:12-13, **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

And here is the amazing thing. They heard the report from the women but because they couldn't see Him, they refused to believe.

Think about it like this. *“You would not believe the wild reports we have heard. There are these women, who loved Jesus, and now, in this hyper-emotional state, they are telling us that they have seen the risen Lord! Can you believe that!”*

That fire in their hearts that was burning brightly was now extinguished from their hearts as they have lost all hope, they are crushed by all that has happened. And you can imagine their pain!

What I love here is that when they are in this condition, who shows up?

Jesus shows up and is walking with them, even though they do not know it is Jesus, not yet!

And I am sure we have all been on that road to Emmaus, you might say. It is a long, dry stretch and it truly seems that you are going nowhere now.

And, like these men, we can become blinded to the fact that Jesus is with us. Unbelief will do that.

They needed that fire rekindled in their lives and, as we will see, Jesus is the one who will do that in their lives.

Again, put yourself in their shoes. Can you believe without seeing with your own eyes?

The evidence is overwhelming, Jesus is the Messiah and He did rise from the dead, the tomb is empty!

It is as Jesus said to Thomas when he doubted in the resurrection of Jesus, “**... ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’**” John 20:29.

Now some may say, “*What proof of the resurrection do you have?*”

Let me explain it like this, because there is much proof that Jesus rose from the grave.

And if you reject it, I think I can safely say that even if Jesus appeared before you today, you would still reject Him!

Simon Greenleaf was the famous Professor of Law at Harvard University. And in 1842 he produced a famous work entitled, “*A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*” which “*is still considered the greatest single authority on evidence in the entire literature of legal procedure.*”

Back in 1846, while Greenleaf was still professor of Law at Harvard, he wrote a volume entitled, “*An Examination of the Testimony of the four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice.*”

In this classic work, Greenleaf examines the value of the testimony of the apostles to the resurrection of Christ. The following are this brilliant jurist’s critical observations.

He wrote,

The great truths which the apostles declared, were, that Christ had risen from the dead, and that only through repentance from sin, and faith in Him, could men hope for salvation.

This doctrine they asserted with one voice, everywhere, not only under the greatest discouragements, but in the face of the most appalling errors that can be presented to the mind of man.

Their master had recently perished as a malefactor, by the sentence of a public tribunal.

His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teachings of His disciples. The interests and passions of all the rulers and great men of the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them.

Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, revelings [to feast in a noisy manner], bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments, and cruel deaths.

Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing. As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution. The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the like heroic constancy, patience, and unblenching [not blenching or turning aside; unflinching] courage.

They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency.

It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.

If it were morally possible for them to have been deceived in this matter, every human motive operated to lead them to discover and avow their error.

To have persisted in so gross a falsehood, after it was known to them, was not only to encounter, for life, all the evils which man could inflict, from without, but to endure also the pangs of inward and conscious guilt; with no hope of future peace, no testimony of a good conscience, no expectation of honor or esteem among men, no hope of happiness in this life, or in the world to come.

Such conduct in the apostles would moreover have been utterly irreconcilable with the fact, that they possessed the ordinary constitution of our common nature. Yet their lives do show them to have been men like all others of our race; swayed by the same motives, animated by the same hopes, affected by the same joys, subdued by the same sorrows, agitated by the same fears, and subject to the same passions, temptations, and infirmities, as ourselves.

If then their testimony was not true, there was no possible motive for its fabrication.

- Simon Greenleaf, An Examination of the Testimony of the four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice

You see, it would make no sense for these men to die for a lie that they knew was a lie.

One of them would have said, "***Just kidding!***"

But they all died a martyr's death except for the apostle John.

Also keep in mind that Dr. Simon Greenleaf was a very verbal skeptic of Christianity.

And one day he was challenged by his students to apply these books he wrote, “*The Laws Of Legal Evidence*” to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He accepted the challenge, and in the process, he became a Christian.

His conclusion was as follows. “*The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the best-established events of history, according to the laws of legal evidence administered in the courts of justice.*”

In other words, you can place Jesus on trial and try to prove that He did not rise from the dead, but according to the evidence we have before us, He will win the case. He rose from the dead! The tomb is empty! Case closed!

So the resurrection of Jesus is the evidence that He is God, that He has conquered death and because He rose from the dead so shall we! It is not that people can't believe; it is just that they chose not to believe!

So, for these disciples, it was – *A SAD DAY!*

But remember, Jesus is with them and thus, for them it is going to become – *A NEW DAY!*

Listen to how Jesus responds to their hopelessness, their doubting that He is risen. And keep in mind they still don't know that this is Jesus!

VERSES 25-27

Now why in the world did Jesus say to them, “**O foolish ones . . .**”?

Why did He rebuke them?

Because they did not believe the Word of God even though they knew the Word of God!

And notice what Jesus does here for them. “**. . . beginning at Moses and all the**

Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27.

Can you imagine that Bible study.

One writer put it like this. He wrote, “*The Savior, who knows the Word of God perfectly, because of His intimate union with the Spirit who is its Primary Author, expounded to them in broad outline all the Scriptures that referred to Him, from the first books of the Old Testament and right through to the end.*” (Geldenhuys)

And Morris expounds by writing, “*We should not understand this as the selection of a number of proof-texts, but rather as showing that throughout the Old Testament a consistent divine purpose is worked out, a purpose that in the end meant and must mean the cross.*”

What does that mean?

It means from Genesis on through Malachi Jesus showed how the Scriptures spoke of Him!

Again, what a Bible study that must have been.

It is as Psalm 40:7 says of Jesus and how the Bible testifies of Him, “**. . . ‘Behold, I come; In the scroll of the Book it is written of me.’**”

It is all about Him, all about Jesus! Let me show you what I mean.

Jesus showed them that the Messiah was . . .

- *The Seed of the Woman, whose heel was bruised.*
- *The blessing of Abraham to all nations.*
- *The High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.*
- *The Man who wrestled with Jacob.*
- *The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.*
- *The voice from the burning bush.*
- *The Passover Lamb.*
- *The Prophet greater than Moses.*
- *The captain of the Lord's army to Joshua.*
- *The ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer mentioned in Ruth.*
- *The son of David who was a King greater than David.*
- *The suffering Savior of Psalm 22.*

Keep in mind that Psalm 22 gives us a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross some 1,000 years before this took place.

And this Psalm tells us, **“But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ‘He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!’ . . . I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.”** Psalm 22:6-8, 14-18.

- *The Good Shepherd of Psalm 23.*
- *The wisdom of Proverbs and the Lover of the Song of Solomon.*
- *The Savior described in the prophets and the suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 50.*

In Isaiah 53:5-7 we are told, **“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”**

In Isaiah 50:5-6 we are told, **“The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”**

- *The Princely Messiah of Daniel who would establish a Kingdom that would never end.*

In Daniel 2:44 we are told, **“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”**

And in Daniel 9:26 we are told, **“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.”** It is speaking of the Messiah being executed for a capital crime!

➤ *Israel will turn to their Messiah, the One they pierced, rejected.*

In Zechariah 12:10 we are told, **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”**

So as Jesus finishes this Bible study before them, from Genesis through Malachi, and we only scratched the surface looking at how the Scriptures speak of Jesus, it just showed them all the Messiah endured and that Jesus is the Messiah!

You see, the Scriptures are all about Him, all about Jesus!

Morris said regarding all this, that *“The Scripture was a familiar book to them. And what did our Lord do when He met with them? He took the book they had studied all their lives. He turned to the pages that they knew so well. He led them down by the old familiar texts.”* (Morrison)

I am sure they never heard the Scriptures explained like that. Yes, they heard Jesus teach, but now they are seeing even more the intricate details that the Bible speaks regarding the Messiah!

Make no mistake about it, this was – ***A NEW DAY!***

They still don't realize that this is Jesus with them and notice what happens as they draw near their home as we look at – ***BURNING HEARTS!***

VERSES 28-32

Notice that as they came to their home, this man who was with them, Jesus, even though they did not recognize Him as yet, seemed to act if He was going to just go on, but it says, “**they constrained Him.**”

Spurgeon makes these remarks in regard to this word, “**constrained.**”

He wrote, “*It is a very strong word that, ‘they constrained him’; it is akin to the one which Jesus used when he said, ‘The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence.’ They not only invited him, but they held him, they grasped his hand, they tugged at his skirts, they said he should not go.*”

Why did they constrain Him?

I think that they were so interested in what Jesus was saying, the teaching of the Word of God and how it pointed to the Messiah, that they dragged Him into their home to hear more.

I remember Pastor Jack speaking of the Jesus Movement days and how Pastor Chuck would be teaching for some 2 hours and he would finish up and they would be yelling out, “***One more chapter!***” That was after 2 hours of teaching! There was a hunger for the Word of God, there was a fire burning in their hearts!

So, Jesus goes with them.

Now what is interesting is that in Luke 24:31 we are told, “**Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him . . .**”

Why at this point, as they are preparing to eat, were their eyes opened?

I believe that when Jesus broke the bread and blessed the food that they were going to eat, their eyes were opened, and they recognized it was Jesus!

But again, what opened their eyes to this being Jesus?

I believe it was when Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks that they saw the nail prints in His wrists, and they believed; their eyes were opened!

It is as Zechariah 12:10 says, “**And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**”

Yes, this is speaking of the nation of Israel as a whole turning to Jesus.

The point I want you to see is they will look on Jesus whom they pierced; Jesus still bears the marks of the crucifixion and I believe this is what opened their eyes that this man was Jesus, He is risen!

And the result of all this is Jesus vanishes from their sight “**And 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?’**” Luke 24:32.

Before they even ate, they had a good case of heartburn!

When did all this begin?

When the Word of God was being taught to them, when the Scriptures were opened up to them by Jesus. Their heart was burning before they realized it was Jesus with them. Their faith was fueled you might say!

And that burning turned into a blaze as Jesus was opened up to them!

We see this with the life of John Wesley. He was a discouraged and a defeated man. I think we have all been there.

And he stumbled into a church on Aldersgate Street there in London and he was listening to the reading of Martin Luther’s commentary on the book of Romans.

And as he was listening to these words on our justification by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone, it stirred his heart!

This is what he wrote of this experience, “*My heart was strangely warmed.*”

In other words, on hearing the Word of God spoken his heart began to burn and it warmed his heart!

Think about this for a minute.

The stirrings of revival are not the result of all night prayer meetings, although prayer plays a part.

They’re not the result of a unified church, though the church needs to come together.

A burning heart is not the result of anointed praise and worship, though we certainly need to worship God.

A burning heart – a heart on fire for God - a lasting passion for Jesus Christ - occurs when the Scriptures are opened, and Jesus is preached!

Revival comes, when like these two disciples, we go back to the drawing board, and reopen the book, and seek Jesus on every page.

You’ll burn with love for the living Word, when you fill your heart with the written Word.

What is causing you this morning not to see Jesus?

You need to surrender to Him, to His will, to His love, and you will see Him!

Let me ask you this question. How do you start a fire and how do you keep it going?

First of all, you need a ***SPARK!***

I believe that the spark is the Holy Spirit and as we pray and place our trust in the Lord that spark bursts forth!

Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit not only draws us to Jesus before we are saved, but the Holy Spirit is that spark that keeps those embers burning!

The next thing is obvious, we need ***SOMETHING THAT IS FLAMMABLE!***

I think the idea here is that of a willing heart or a heart that is seeking God, a heart that is not so watered down with the cares of this life but is devoted to God.

And lastly, you need ***OXYGEN!***

Think about that for a minute. You take oxygen away from fire and what happens to it? It dies out!

And the oxygen here is our commitment to God. That we need to be in His Word. We need to be in prayer. We need to be in fellowship with other believers.

In our study as we looked at these two disciples, did you notice that the fire was not rekindled while they just talked about Jesus with each other on the road!

In fact, they had no hope, they were discouraged, they were just heading back home.

When was that fire kindled in them?

When they began to spend time with Jesus and it may have just been a little spark, but their hearts were open and as they spent time talking to Him and He spoke to them, teaching from the Word of God, the fire began to burn!

We can only really know Him by communing with Him.

And please understand that once God lights a fire in our hearts we must continue to stoke and feed it every day. This is the secret of ***BURNING HEARTS*** for God!

We need to remember that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was never to be one day on our calendar. God wants it to be a dynamic everyday way of life with Him!

And it all starts in our lives when we ask God to forgive us of our sins, to repent of our sins, and to ask Him to be Lord and Savior of our life. Almighty God became flesh in the Incarnation, to go to the cross of Calvary and pay in full the penalty for our sins. And on the third day He rose from the grave.

If you have not come to Christ, please don't pass this day up. Repent and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life.

And once you have done that, and for us, once that fire starts in us, we need to tend to it every day as we are in fellowship with Him, hearing Him speak to us through His Word and then living out our faith.

Now that their hearts are on fire once again, as their faith was growing, we saw Jesus leave them and now what were they going to do?

They were going to put into practice all that they had learned!

How do I know that?

Listen to what we read next, a few bonus verses here in Luke chapter 24. Look at what we are told beginning in verse 33, **“So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, ‘The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’ 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 24:33-35.

I pray that your heart is burning here this morning, and you will keep those fires stoked so that people will watch you burn. And what I mean by that is people will want to see what you are all about because you are on fire for Jesus!

Remember, He is the risen Lord.

Michelangelo had to deal with this one day. Michelangelo, that great artist, turned on his fellow artists in a spirit of indignation.

What was the problem?

Why was he so mad?

He told them, *“Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the one theme of Christ in weakness, Christ on the Cross, and most of all, Christ hanging dead? Why do you concentrate on the passing episode as if it were the last work, as if the curtain dropped on Him with disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted . . . a few hours. But to the unending eternity, Christ is alive; the stone has been rolled away and He rules and reigns and triumphs!”*

May we remember that!

If we don't, then we will have *A SAD WALK IN LIFE!*

And not only a sad walk in life, but we will have *A SAD DAY AS WE GET UP IN THE MORNING!*

But we don't have to live that way!

Let's start *A NEW DAY IN CHRIST AND HAVE OUR HEARTS BURNING FOR HIM!*