

How the Risen Jesus Reveals Himself to His Dejected Disciples

— Luke 24:13-35 —

The events we read of in Luke 24:13-35 take place on Easter Sunday, on the very day Jesus rose. Numerous women, along with some of Jesus' disciples, have heard and seen that the tomb is empty. Angels have announced that Jesus is alive. However, no one has yet seen the resurrected Jesus. The women and His disciples are confused; they think His body has either been stolen or relocated. And even though the angels have announced that He is risen, they are so downcast that none of them so much as thinks about the possibility that He is alive. At this point they do not remember that on numerous occasions, Jesus predicted His resurrection.

The story before presents us with two downcast disciples walking away from Jerusalem. They feel utterly dejected, and their hopes have been shattered. But the risen Jesus reveals Himself to them. Let's consider how He does so.

1. By Traveling the road with them

A. expectations vs. reality:

- i) what the disciples thought Jesus would do
- ii) what others actually did to Jesus

B. Jesus joins them on the journey

- i) Proverbs 18:13 - "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly & shame to him."
- ii) Hebrews 2:18; 4:15 - Jesus shows Himself to be the merciful & faithful High Priest who sympathizes with the weaknesses of His people.

C. Two Lessons

- i) How to minister to others: ask questions and listen to answers and heartaches
- ii) Read, study, and meditate upon the *whole* Bible, not just the 'nice' passages and promises

2. By Explaining the Scriptures to them

A. Rebuked by Rabbi Jesus

B. Revelation in the Scriptures

- i) Genesis 3:15 - "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."
 - Galatians 3:16b - "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."
- ii) Genesis 37-50 - Joseph goes down into prison before being raised up to rule from the palace over Egypt
 - Philippians 2:8-9 - "He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name."
- iii) Exodus 12:5 - Three qualifications for the Passover Lamb: male, 1 year old, without defect
 - John 1:29 - "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- iv) Exodus 16 - Manna, the bread of heaven
 - John 6 - "⁴⁹ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, He will live forever. This bread is My flesh which I will give for the life of the world."

- v) Numbers 21:8-9 - “⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”
 - John 3:14-15 - “¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”
- vi) Psalm 41:9 - “Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”
- vii) Psalm 55:12-14 - “¹² If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. ¹³ But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, ¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.”
- viii) Psalm 22 - “⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ⁸ “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” ... They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.... ¹ “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- ix) Psalm 16:9a-11 - “You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”
 - Acts 2:24-25 - “²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth ... you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning Him: ‘... ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
- x) Isaiah 53 - “⁵ He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; ... by His wounds we are healed.... ¹² He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
 - 1Pe.2:21-24 - “²¹ ... Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” [Isa.53:9b] ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.... ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.””

C. Why does Jesus begin with the Scriptures?

- i) Matthew Henry - “A golden thread of gospel grace runs through the whole web of the Old Testament. Christ is the best expositor of Scripture; and *even after His resurrection, He led people to know the mystery concerning Himself, not by advancing new notions, but by showing how the Scripture was fulfilled,* and turning them to the earnest study of it.”
- ii) Luke 16:27-31 - “²⁷ Then he [the rich man] said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him [Abraham] to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

3. By Breaking bread with them

- A. Luke 24:30 - “Now it came to pass, as He sat at table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.”
- B. Luke 9:16 - Jesus feeds the 5,000 - “Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.”

C. Luke 22:19 - The institution of the Lord's Supper - "And He took bread, gave thanks [blessed] and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Conclusion

Are you feeding on Jesus by reading the Scripture, listening to the preaching of the Word, and partaking of the sacraments? You need to because the gospel is not just the runway to the Christian life that gets us off the ground at conversion only to land us in heaven upon death; the gospel is the engine of the Christian life, getting us off the ground, keeping us in the air all along, and finally landing us in glory in the new heavens and earth.

Are you journeying with the unbelievers in your life, sharing the gospel with them, and willing to take risks in doing so? As Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Finally, if you are not a Christian, ask God to open your eyes to see and believe that Jesus is the central character in the Bible and that He is the only one who can save you from your sin and give you eternal life. This is a prayer He will be most pleased to answer!