

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

LUKE 24:13-35

Easter Sunday

Our lesson today is from the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of **Luke**. The events of this chapter include the women and Peter and John coming to the tomb and finding it empty. We saw that recently in our study of the book of **John**, so I thought we would focus today on the encounter of the Lord Jesus with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus.

## **Verses 13-27...**

Jesus met up with two of his followers on the Emmaus Road:

one named Cleopas, and one unnamed follower. And I believe what we can learn from the conversation here will help us not only today, Easter, but every day...

Look down at **verse 32...**

I want us to see today how we, too, can have a heart that burns with the same truth that burned within the hearts of these two men!

The great need in the **church** today and in **your** heart today and **my** heart today is not simply to know truth, but truth that **burns within our hearts**.

G. Campbell Morgan said, *"The worst form of blasphemy is lukewarmness."*

Lukewarmness says, *"God, I believe in You, but You just don't excite me."*

I pray that our pastor will always **preach** truth.

I pray that I will always **teach** truth.

I pray that our class and our church will always **believe** truth.

I pray that we will always **embrace** truth.

But, unless our hearts **burn** with truth our lives will never reflect the truth we say we believe!

The setting of today's lesson, as we've said, is the period just after the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's look at the sadness. These are two sad men...**verse 17...**

These men were convinced that Jesus was going to redeem Israel from the oppression of the Romans...**verse 21.**

And as they walked along, they were going over all that had happened...

Can you imagine what these two men were saying to each other? They had just experienced seeing or at least being close to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus...and they must have been sharing their feelings about this with each other.

I think one of the sweetest things we do as Christians is share with other believers our burdens and fears and sadness as well as our joys!!

**God oftentimes allows us to learn from each other.**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

God oftentimes allows us to refresh one another's memory of the things He has done for us.

God oftentimes allows us to stir up each other's devout affections...affections we may have allowed to diminish over time.

And, we can't help but wonder exactly what **these two men** were talking about...

Dr. John Phillips preaches a sermon entitled "**The Five Mighty Miracles of the Cross**" and in this sermon, Dr. Phillips says the first miracle was

## 1) **The Miracle of the Sun**

God had performed miracles of the sun before... He had made the sun stand still for about a day when His children needed more daylight to fight the enemy.

He had made the shadow decline ten steps as a sign for Hezekiah.

But, this time, **God blotted out the sun for three hours**. This was not an eclipse. The longest eclipse on record is about seven and a half minutes. The reason God blotted out the sun for three hours was so that the world could not see when His precious Son who knew no sin was made sin for us.

When Jesus was born, God put a star in the sky, and when Jesus died, God blotted out the sun.

Perhaps the two guys on the road to Emmaus were discussing this...

Or maybe they were discussing the second miracle of the Cross

## 2) **The Miracle of the Stones**

A little over a week before, as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the people were shouting, "**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!**"

And when the Pharisees heard this they told Jesus to rebuke the people and Jesus said, "**I tell you, if these people become silent, the stones will cry out!**"

Well, that's exactly what happened. The people were silent when Jesus died, but the stones were split and there was a great earthquake.

Maybe these two fellows were discussing this!

Or, maybe they were discussing

## 3) **The Miracle of the Sanctuary**

For over one thousand years, the veil had stood as a barrier between God and man. **The veil was God's way of saying...**

**"You can't come in here! You can't come into My presence! You must be represented by a high priest and he must come only once a year and then he must bring blood with him!**

**I am a holy God and you're a sinful people! And you cannot come beyond the veil into My presence!"**

But, when the blood of Jesus was poured out at Calvary, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom and then God said,

**"Come on in! I'm so glad to see you. My child! How long can you stay? How's your family? ...your job? What are**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

**your hopes, your dreams, your needs...I'm so glad you're here and you want to spend time with Me!"**

Or, maybe they were discussing the

## **4) The Miracle of the Sepulchres**

Remember that after Jesus was raised, Matthew tells us "the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised and they entered the city and appeared to many..."

Or, maybe they were discussing the

## **5) The Miracle of the Soldiers**

Matthew tells us that

"The centurion and those who were with him, keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God...'"

Maybe they were discussing some or all of these things...we don't know. But, suddenly another man appeared and He began to walk with them. But, they had no idea who this man was, did they...**verse 16...**

God prevented these men from recognizing Jesus and I believe we can see the reason for this as we go along.

They knew Jesus had been crucified.

They knew He had been buried and laid in a borrowed tomb.

They knew some of their friends had seen the empty tomb.

But, they didn't understand it all. They were half believing and half doubting.

They must have been not only sad, but also confused. **Jesus had not set up His earthly kingdom.** Jesus was certainly not a "political Messiah."

Instead of holding a scepter, He had had nails driven into His hands.

Instead of wearing a gold crown on His head, He had worn a crown of thorns.

Instead of sitting on a throne, He had hung upon a Cross.

Instead of a nation to rule, Jesus had only a small band of folks who, themselves, were so afraid and disillusioned that they were off hiding out...and would soon seriously consider going back to their professions...fishing and tax collecting...

So, I believe these men were doubting and I believe their doubting brought on discouragement. And I believe their doubt and discouragement were brought about because of misinformation.

They had expected a kingdom...

The prophets had prophesied the kingdom...

The angels had proclaimed the kingdom...

Jesus had preached the kingdom...

Yet, they couldn't see the kingdom because their king had been crucified!

But, **the bottom line was that they had only part of the picture.** They didn't have the complete picture!

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Do you ever get discouraged and disappointed in your walk with the Lord Jesus? Many times, in fact, I'd venture to say **all the time**, it's because we don't know **all the story!**

Look at **verse 25...**

"O foolish men" – **NAS**

"O fools" – **KJV**

"How foolish you are" – **NIV**

Jesus is saying, "The reason you're doubting and discouraged is because you don't understand the Bible..."

Jesus is saying, "Had you been up on your Bible prophecy, had you believed all of it, you would have understood that God isn't finished. You would have understood that all this is part of God's magnificent plan!

And that's at the core of most unbelief, isn't it? I mean, folks go through life not reading, and not knowing, and not caring what God's Word says. Even "experts"... Even the scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees, who were so steeped in religious knowledge didn't know the Word or believe the Word enough to know that Jesus was the Messiah!

The sad thing about today is that folks all over the world will celebrate Easter and miss who Jesus is!

And these two men didn't know God was going to turn Calvary into Easter.

They had heard Jesus mocked while He was on the Cross...  
folks telling Him to come down off the Cross if He  
was indeed who He claimed to be and **they** probably  
wondered why He didn't do it, too...

The truth of the matter is that their hopes should not have been based on an *empty Cross*...their hopes should have been based upon an *empty tomb!*

In fact, all His followers should have been waiting at the tomb...waiting for Him to come out...

So, we see Jesus calling these men foolish...fools because they didn't know the Bible!

And, the heart of Jesus must have been so grieved that they hadn't truly believed His Old Testament!

These men were really unbelieving believers...doubting...  
discouraged believers...

They were the ones who should have believed, but even when the followers of Jesus came to His tomb, what had they expected? They expected to find His body to anoint! They had not at all expected an empty tomb.

And here are these two men leaving Jerusalem and heading back to Emmaus. They probably lived in Emmaus and now that it was all over they were just going back home!

**Verse 15...**

These were believers, but they weren't walking in victory. In fact, they were walking in doubt. I mean, they were leaving Jerusalem. They were walking to Emmaus. **They surely didn't expect to find the risen Savior in Emmaus, did they?**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Doesn't it seem as though they must have doubted they would ever see Him again?

But, **verse 15** tells us Jesus sought them out and began traveling with them.

**Jesus didn't seek them out to condone their sadness.**

**Jesus didn't seek them out to condemn their sadness.**

**Jesus sought them out to comfort them in their sadness!**

Elisabeth Eliot:

"When we find ourselves most hopeless, the road most taxing, we may also find that it is then that the Risen Christ catches up to us on the way...better than our dreams, beyond all our hopes. For it is He – not His gifts, not His power, not what He can do for us, but He Himself – who comes and makes Himself known to us."

Now, this should bless our hearts! When did Jesus first seek you? He came **"to seek and to save that which was lost..."**

So, if Jesus sought us when we were lost...how much more will **Jesus seek us who are saved, but are in the middle of doubt and sadness.**

I've heard it said that the love of God is like a rubber band and when we go astray it stretches and draws us back.

So, the Savior **sought** them and He **caught** up with them and He began **walking** with them.

And then Jesus **taught** them.

**Verse 27...**

I love Bible conferences. Revivals are important and so necessary, but Bible conferences teach us so much!

And here was Jesus holding a "walking Bible conference" with only two in attendance...wouldn't you like to know exactly what Jesus told these men?

**Verse 27** again...

There are so many times the Old Testament mentions the coming Messiah...don't you wish you knew exactly what Jesus brought to their attention?

I mean, for seven and a half miles...at least a couple of hours...Jesus was walking along and He taught them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Let me ask you...

When you're doubting and disappointed and discouraged and sadness has overwhelmed you...what do you do? Do you ever just open the Scriptures and look for Jesus?

Now, remember, at this point, they still didn't know who He was.

And it wasn't because these fellows were stupid! **Verse 16** tells us **"their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him."**

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Jesus still hadn't revealed Himself to them in His flesh. The book of **Mark** tells us that Jesus came to two of His followers in "**another form.**" Were these the two followers? I believe they were...

I believe it was God's will that they know Jesus, **not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** Soon, Jesus would be gone...He would ascend into heaven and God wanted the relationship that they had had with Jesus in His physical, literal presence to be broken.

Let me ask you...would you rather live now, or back then when we could walk and talk with Jesus? Jesus Himself said, "**It is better for you that I go away.**"

You see, as hard as it is for us to understand...it is far better for us to know Jesus in the spirit than to know Him in the flesh. And I believe God was weaning these men away from a purely physical relationship with Jesus.

God wanted to bring them to a deeper, more spiritual relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ than they had ever had before.

And He did this by focusing their attention, not on the physical presence of Jesus, but upon the presence of Jesus that He had revealed in His holy Word.

God's Word tells us we are to walk by faith and not by sight! And Jesus said to Thomas, "**Thomas, you've seen and you've believed... but blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed!**"

What Jesus is doing here is saying,  
"**You want to know Me? You won't know Me any longer because you can touch Me and feel Me and fellowship with Me in the flesh... You're going to know Me now because your eyes will be opened through a study of the Word of God!**"

I wish, as I said before, that we could know exactly what Jesus said to them. But I believe He took them back to the basics. I believe He gave them a quick study of "Prophecy 101"...

We need to remember that the Word of God is about Jesus...every book contains that scarlet thread that points to Jesus. **He is there in type, in prophecy, in figure, in picture, in illustration, in analogy.** He is even there in **theophany...in pre-incarnate appearances.**

If you don't see Jesus in God's Word, you better read it again, because He's there...even on the pages of the Old Testament.

If you want a "burning heart," you need to get into God's Word and look for the truth of Jesus...His commandments, His character, His concern for your soul.

Let's just think for a moment about what Jesus might have shown these men. He began with Moses. Moses wrote **Genesis**.

Maybe Jesus took them all the way back to **Genesis 3:15** where God told the devil that one day One would come who would bruise him on the head.

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

Maybe He reminded them that God made a covenant with a man named **Abraham** and within that covenant God told Abraham that through his seed all the people of the world would be blessed.

Maybe Jesus reminded these men that this promise got narrowed down and narrowed down again and again...through **Isaac** and through **Jacob** and then through **Judah** and finally through the line of **David**.

Then maybe Jesus reminded these fellows that **Isaiah** told us that Jesus would be born of a virgin and **Micah** told us that He would be born in a certain town named Bethlehem and then **Daniel** told us of a certain time.

**And, when you put all this together...there's only one Person who was ever born who fulfills all these prophecies...and His name is Jesus!**

Now, bear in mind, there are over 400 prophecies concerning Jesus contained in Scripture...all of which came true. But, Peter Stoner in **Science Speaks** says the mathematical possibility of just **8 things** prophesied about Jesus being fulfilled is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. (1 in 1 followed by 17 zeroes)

Now, I'm not mathematically minded at all, but I do know that these are slim chances! But, praise God, we're not dealing with "chance". We're dealing with the infallible, inerrant, inspired Word of God!

I can't even **fathom** 1 with 17 zeroes after it! I don't even know what you call it, but let me give you the example that Peter Stoner gave.

If it were possible to put this many silver dollars in one place, they would cover the entire state of Texas and they would be stacked two feet deep.

Just imagine! Silver dollars two feet deep covering the entire state of Texas!

Now, imagine there being one marked silver dollar and you put a man down in the middle of Texas and he would be able to pick up that one silver dollar out of all those others!

That's the mathematical possibility of just **8** of the over 400 prophecies concerning Jesus being fulfilled.

Prophecies concerning Jesus were so marvelously fulfilled. Jesus is the only person ever born whose birth **place** and birth **time** and **circumstances** were so accurately prophesied hundreds of years in advance.

Can you imagine having to paint a picture of a man you've never seen? Can you imagine having the portrait painted by 25+ artists and the portrait turns out absolutely perfectly?

I believe we can learn from this passage of Scripture that God reveals His Son to us in His holy Word and He used over 25 different people to do this!

**Verses 28-33...**

They already knew He was risen...but now,

**Verse 34...** "The Lord has really risen...(NAS) He has risen indeed...(KJV)

# The Christian Arsenal

[www.christianarsenal.com](http://www.christianarsenal.com)

If we were to take a Bible test this morning and one of the questions on the test was “Is the Lord risen this morning?” What would we all say? “Yes, He is risen.”

But, most of us need to know “He is risen indeed!” Most of us need to **remember** every day and be **amazed** every day and be **comforted** and **encouraged** and **empowered** every day that we serve the Risen Savior!

**Verse 33** tells us these two fellows went right back to Jerusalem because they had met Jesus and their hearts were set afire!

By the way, **verse 44** of this chapter tells us that when Jesus met up with the eleven disciples, He gave them a Bible lesson, too!

Let me just close this morning by asking you a couple of questions...

**Do you know Jesus this morning as your own risen Savior?**

Do you have a heart that’s burning within you?

Do you take God’s Word for granted?

**Do you take the death, burial and resurrection of the dear Lamb of God for granted?**

Are you like these two men **before** their encounter with Jesus on the Emmaus Road...doubting and discouraged?

Or are you like them **after** their encounter with Jesus, having a heart that is burning within you?

**Are you like Paul when he said he longed to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection?**

Paul knew there was no power in the Law!

Paul knew there was no power in religion!

Paul knew there was no power in the flesh to overcome sin or serve God!

Paul knew the only power that was genuine power was the power of the Lord’s resurrection. **It is the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ that saves us. If Jesus were still in the tomb, there would be no salvation for any of us.**

**It is also the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ that sanctifies us.** If Jesus were still in the tomb, He could not lead us or teach us or enable and empower us to share with others what He’s done for us.

May God help our hearts to burn within us because of who Jesus is and what He has done and because of the fact that He walks and talks with us each day and reveals Himself to us each time we open His precious Word!

**May God fan the flame in our hearts on this Resurrection Day and all the days to follow!**