

Sunday theme – **The risen Christ meets us in our disappointments.**

Read Luke 24: 13 – 27

1. Following the crucifixion of Jesus, Cleopas and his companion were more than disappointed, more likely they felt most of their hopes and future expectations had been shattered. They were apparently close followers of Jesus (see verses 22-24). To declare to a 'stranger' that they were part of Jesus' inner circle was potentially very risky for them personally.

1a. Have you seen, or perhaps experienced, a connection between the taking of risks and feeling down or depressed?

1b. Verse 16. Although the text indicates that 'they were kept from recognising him'; are there any experiences or observations you can make about not recognising Jesus' presence when feeling down?

2. The response of the stranger (Jesus) to learning that the two were 'downcast' at what had happened and was happening, was to point them (verse 26-27) to the Scriptures in which all had been foretold.

2a. Is reading the Bible a constant comfort to you? Can you describe times when it is and when it is 'not sufficient'?

2b. What else do you need at times when the Bible might not be sufficient?

2c. I'm sure most of us will have wished at one time or another to change places with the two travellers and have Jesus explain 'all the scriptures concerning himself' to us personally. Do you find the Old Testament scriptures helpful or do they confuse your new testament faith? Which, if any, of the books of the Old Testament challenge you most?

Read Luke 24: 28 - 35

3. In question 2 we noted how Jesus pointed the travellers to the scriptures. But this was not all he did for them.

3a. What else did Jesus do for them?

3b. Is your answer to the above question relevant to our Christian witness today? If so, how?

4. Verse 28-29 ...'Jesus continued on as if he were going further. But they urged him strongly, stay with us' ...

4a. Do you think Jesus was in a hurry to be going on, or could there be another reason for Jesus' action?

4b. Jesus did go with them to their home, and it was in the breaking of bread that 'their eyes were opened and they recognised him'. What relevance do you draw from this for today?

5. Verse 33. What have we to learn from the traveller's action here; an immediate (although tired and hungry seven mile return walk at night on a probably dangerous road? Perhaps they had reason to run!

(Bible used = NIV 2011 translation)

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