

Hello again everyone. Hope you had a great week. This week we continued the 24th and final chapter of Luke. Two disciples walked home to Emmaus and were joined on their journey by Jesus Himself, only they did not know it.

Are we walking our life's journey with Jesus?

God bless you!

Pastor Don

Walking With Jesus

Luke 24: 13-43

April 7, 2013

A woman and her husband interrupted their vacation to go to the dentist. "I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want Novocain because I'm in a big hurry," the woman said. "Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible, and we'll be on our way." The dentist was quite impressed. "You're certainly a courageous woman," he said. "Which tooth is it?" The woman turned to her husband and said, "Show him your tooth, dear."

A woman was scheduled to fly from North Carolina to Germany, where her husband was stationed in the military. The ticket agent asked her some standard security questions. "Has anyone given you any packages that you didn't pack yourself?" The lady answered "My mother-in-law give me a parcel to take to her son." He very carefully asked, "Does she like you?"

A famous evangelist and a bus driver both arrived at heavens pearly gates at the same time. Saint Peter showed them to their new homes. The bus driver got a huge mansion while the evangelist got a humble, rustic one room cabin. The evangelist protested; hey what is going on here? I preached for 50 years and all I get is this small little place and this bus driver who rarely enter God's house gets a mansion? Saint Peter answered well sir, while you were preaching lots of people were sleeping, but when this man was driving his bus, everyone was praying!

A father and his little girl went for a walk in the country. The little girl looked up at the night sky. She saw the full moon, the twinkling stars, and was filled with wonder. She said daddy, if this side of heaven is this beautiful, what do you think the other side will look like? Walking means different things to different people; to lovers, it is romantic; for some it's exercise; to others its therapy; & to some, it is their only means of transportation

Walking is the original form of transportation. It is how Adam and Eve got around in the garden. It is how Jesus went to most of the places He traveled to. People don't rely on their feet to get them to many places today. We have mass transit in all the big cities. Cars are plentiful. We have trains and planes for long trips. It's hard to imagine the many people who walked from St Louis to California back when we had

wagon trains moving people west. It's hard to picture Daniel Boone and people like him walking around here, blazing trails and settling this area. Walking is considered exercise or mainly leisure activity now. It is a way to try and stay healthy or lose weight or get rid of stress. Walking is a way to clear our minds and spend some quality time with God; to see His handy work; to listen for His voice. When was the last time we took a walk with God?

Some times walking is the only way to get the job done. In 1991, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was planning their crusade in Buenos Aires. The organizational meeting was being held in a small town in Argentina. The weather was terrible; hail, high winds and heavy rain. Pastors were gathered from all over the region. Halfway through the meeting, a man came in, drenched and exhausted. This man did not have money for the 125 mile trip to this meeting so he walked there. He wanted to be sure that his town of 15,000 people would be included in the campaign.

In today's scripture, two men were actually walking with Jesus. Only they did not realize it at the time. Do we realize when we are walking with Jesus? There are only two companions that we can walk the road of life with. One is Jesus, the other is the world. Jesus loves us and cares for us. He wants us to spread His love where ever we go. The world hates us and is cold, greedy, mean, cruel, rude, and crude. It wants us to be the same. Do we walk with Jesus or do we walk with the world? Let's pray.

(Read vs. 13-14) two men were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter evening. This was a trip of about seven miles. We are not told why they were going there but we are told what they were talking about on the way. They were discussing Jesus, His death, burial and resurrection. Christians today need to spend more time talking with each other about Jesus; about His life, death and resurrection. This is how we improve each others knowledge and refresh our minds and our spirits. Suddenly, Jesus Himself appears and walks along with them.

(Vs.15 - 17) They did not recognize Him. How often does Jesus appear to us, and we don't realize it's Him? Today He comes to us spiritually, here, He was physically with them. Jesus was also illustrating that He always keeps His promises. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus said "For where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my Name, I am in the midst of them." Those who seek Jesus shall find Him. He will make Himself know to those who wish to know Him. He will give knowledge about Himself to those who want it.

Do we wish do know Him? Do we seek to improve our knowledge of Him?

Jesus asked them what they were talking about. He mentioned that it made them look sad. The sadness of Jesus' death was still on their faces. They had reason to be happy. Jesus was resurrected that very morning, but these two chose not to believe it.

Christians should be happy. I know bad things do happen, but when you have Jesus, everything will be alright. It just takes faith to believe that. Christians are often sad because of weak faith. This is why Christians need to talk with other Christians about Jesus. We need to keep our hearts full of Jesus and His love. Jesus said in Luke 6:45 "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." What is in our hearts?

Jesus is showing us to be compassionate. He asked why are you sad. We too should try to show compassion to those who need it. In his book "Front Porch Tales", Philip Gulley writes of his experience as a newspaper boy. One of his customers was a widow who always talked about what she and her husband did that day. Philip told his dad, and his dad said that she was probably just lonely. That he should just sit and listen to her, nod his head and smile. Every day, the widow would give him a cold pop and talk about her husband. Philip would drink and listen and nod. It worked, after a few summers; she stopped talking about her husband as if he was still alive. She finally was able to get on with her life. Today, people would insist that the widow be sent to a psychiatrist. She did not need one; all she needed was some one to listen, nod and smile. Psychiatrists call that enabling denial. Christians call that compassion. Do we show the compassion of Christ?

(v18) Here we are told who one of the men is; Cleopas. He asks Jesus if he is only a stranger in town because He did not seem to know about the crucifixion of Jesus. (19-20) Jesus shows compassion by asking what things. Jesus cares about what concerns us. They begin to tell Him about His own crucifixion. (V21-24) These verses contain the real reason for their sadness; their lack of faith. The women told of the missing body and of the angels who said Jesus was alive. Then the disciples backed up their story by seeing the empty tomb for themselves. These men admitted that they thought Jesus was the Messiah, the redeemer of Israel, and that today was the third day since Jesus was crucified. They should have remembered that Jesus often said He would die and be raised on the third day.

(Vs.25-27) Jesus rebukes their unbelief. He takes them back through the scriptures and reminds them of what the prophets taught about the Messiah. If they had truly believed the prophets, then they would have truly believed the women. It was decreed and declared that the Messiah should suffer. These sufferings proved that He was the Messiah. Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9 both present Jesus as a suffering servant. Only through the blood of Jesus can our sins be forgiven. Jesus had to suffer and die for our sins.

Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me." Here Jesus is pointing out this fact to them so that they would no longer doubt, but believe. Our job

today is the same, to point people to Jesus; to show them Christ in such a way that they would no longer doubt but believe.

(V28-29) When they reached the men's destination, Jesus acted like He was going on further. Hospitality was very important in Jesus' day so these two men asked Him to stay with them for the night, as it was beginning to get dark. People must invite Jesus to come in to their hearts. He will not force Himself upon them. These two men invited Jesus to stay; He did not force Himself upon them. Once we have experienced Jesus, we will want more of His time and company. Notice Jesus did enter in. He always enters a hearts door that is open to Him. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." It was at this supper where Jesus let Himself be identified.

(Read verses 30-31). When Jesus blessed and broke the bread, they recognized Him immediately. Then He disappeared from their sight. The master of the house is supposed to bless and break the bread. It was Jesus' custom to do this. Where ever Jesus makes His home, He feeds those who have invited Him. He feeds them with bread that He has blessed. This feeding not only strengthens but enlightens. Jesus told us in John 6:48 that He is the bread of life. Those who believe in Jesus have eternal life. We eat the bread of life by reading the bible and feeding on the word of God. We consume the Bread of Life when we spend time alone with Christ in prayer and study. Here Jesus not only fed them with spiritual bread, but with physical bread too. His leaving so abruptly allowed these men time to reflect on all that He had said to them.

(Vs 32-35) now they understood how this stranger they were walking and talking with knew so much about the scriptures. It was Jesus Himself. So they left and walked the 7 miles back to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples about their trip to Emmaus. They left that same hour. Christians have such good news to tell people, we should be excited to tell them. We need to share when ever possible what Jesus has done for us. These men were so excited that they had to go back to Jerusalem right away. This could not wait until the morning. They were just to excited to sleep. Does spending time with Jesus excite us?

When they got to Jerusalem, they found the 11. They too were saying that Jesus is alive!

They said Peter had also seen Jesus. Paul backs this up in 1Corinthians 15:5 Paul says that He was seen by Cephas, who is Simon Peter. Then the two men from the Emmaus road they related their story to them. Christians need to share their experiences with Jesus not only with the lost, but with other Christians as well. Faith comes by hearing. When new hear the testimonies of fellow believers, it strengthens our faith.

(Vs. 36-43) while they were still talking about Him, Jesus Himself suddenly appeared in their midst. Naturally this sudden appearance frightened the disciples. Jesus did not walk through the bolted door or climb through the locked window; He just appeared in their midst. To calm their fears Jesus said "Peace to you". Jesus wants us to have true peace, the peace only He can give. Do we have this peace which passes all understanding?

He tries to convince them that He is alive; that they are not seeing a ghost. He shows them his hands and feet. They can see the nail prints. Then he eats with them. Now ghosts don't eat and ghosts don't have flesh and bones. Jesus proved that he was indeed bodily resurrected. He had a glorified body. His new body is not corruptible. Lazarus received a restored human body. Jesus has a glorified body. What is the difference? Human bodies are corruptible; they will eventually decay and waste away. A glorified body is

incorruptible. It is not restricted like a human body; it can pass through solid material, like wood and stone; it can travel long distances in an instant. It is with this incorruptible, glorified body that Jesus ascended into heaven. This is the kind of body that we will get some day. Paul tells us about these new bodies in 1Cor.15:35-58. Verse 50 says that flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Verse 51 tells us that not all will sleep but all will be changed; vs. 52-54 says "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written; 'O Death where is your sting? O grave where is your victory?'" Christ's grave is empty, He is not dead, he is alive! He will live forever and rule forever! Jesus is alive today! Jesus will be alive forever! And because He is, we know that we will be too. We may not have seen Him with our own eyes, but we have seen Him with our hearts. We are blessed because we have not seen and yet believe.

Jesus continued to teach them (v44-46). It is very important that the disciples understood because Jesus is about to give them their mission. (V47-48) Jesus has called them and us to be his evangelists. What God calls us to do He will equip us to do. (V49) The disciples

were to wait for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them. It descended upon them on the day of Pentecost, 7 weeks in the future. Today, Christians receive the Holy Spirit the day we receive Christ into our hearts. Are we preaching repentance and remission of sins in His name to all nations? (50-53) Luke ends his gospel the way he starts the book of Acts, with Christ's ascension into heaven. Afterwards the disciples go and worship Christ continually in the temple with great joy. Do we joyfully worship everyday?

All Christians have a home in heaven. All Christians will someday receive these new incorruptible bodies and live forever in heaven. But we aren't

there yet. We are all still alive and living here on this earth. We all still have work to do for God. When our work is finished, we will be rewarded with eternity in heaven. Until then, we need to do the Lord's work. We need to tell everyone the good news of Jesus Christ; that He is alive! That He died for our sins! That He loves us and is preparing a place for us in heaven. Are we willing to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

Some days it is hard to feel Him burning in our hearts isn't it? Some days He feels far away doesn't He? But He is not. He is right here in our hearts. Walking with us; talking with us, teaching us, and guiding us. All we have to do is believe. Do we believe?

Are we walking with Him? Amen. Let's pray.