

The Foundation for True Faith

International Bible Lesson

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, March 31, 2013

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“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him” (Luke 24:15, 16—KJV).

“As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him” (Luke 24:15, 16—GNB).

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him” (Luke 24:15, 16—NRSV).

God always works with perfect timing and sequence. The two followers of Jesus on their way to the village of Emmaus knew the facts about Jesus’ ministry and the recent tragic events in Jerusalem. They knew some of the reports that after His crucifixion Jesus had risen from the dead. But they did not know the scriptures about how Jesus came to fulfill and had fulfilled the scriptures. Therefore, when Jesus met them on the road, He kept their eyes from recognizing Him until after He had explained the scriptures to them. As their hearts burned within as Jesus opened the scriptures to them, they strongly urged Jesus to stay with them and eat with them. Jesus stayed with them, but He did not open their eyes until He broke the bread and gave it to them. Jesus confirmed their faith when He revealed himself to them; then He vanished from their sight.

Jesus timed His meeting with them perfectly, so He could explain completely what the scriptures taught about Him. As the Word of God in human flesh, Jesus wanted their faith founded on the Word of God written and not just on miracles. The Bible teaches that before Jesus Christ returns some will be misled by deceivers working lying wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). To avoid being misled, those who follow Jesus must evaluate all they learn using the Bible as their objective authority and absolute standard for truth. In accordance with God’s perfect timing, we will not understand some truths until we have taken the time to study God’s Word to learn more about Jesus.

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Thinking Further

1. Other than the fact that Moses’ law required two witnesses to a possible crime or event, what are some other advantages for there being two or more witnesses at a time to Jesus’ resurrection appearances (with Mary in the garden and Paul on the road to Damascus being two notable exceptions)?
2. What reason does Luke give for the two on the road to Emmaus being sad?
3. Why was it important for Jesus to point the two eye witnesses on the road to Emmaus back to what the Bible had taught about the Messiah and His coming?
4. Why did Jesus begin with Moses and proceed to explain what all the prophets and all the scriptures said about Him?
5. Why do you think Jesus appeared and disappeared when He chose, and not because (or when or if) people called Him to appear to them?

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