

Jesus Appears to the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Main Themes:

1. God's Word is the only thing that can create and sustain faith in Christ.
2. God's Word is the only thing that can teach us that it was necessary that Jesus suffer and die for our sins.
3. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the central message of the Old Testament Scriptures.
4. The purpose of preaching and catechesis is to create and sustain faith in Christ.
5. The Lord's Supper is faithfully celebrated only when it is preceded by the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word.
6. The preaching of God's Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper will continue until Christ returns in glory.

Questions:

1. What day were the two disciples traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus? Easter Sunday, the day that Jesus rose from the dead.
2. What were they talking about? Jesus' suffering and death at the hands of the chief priests and elders of the people.
3. Why did Jesus prevent them from recognizing Him with their eyes? He wanted them to "See" Him through the Scriptures, to hear how the Scriptures taught that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and die, and on the third day to rise again.
4. How does Jesus begin to catechize them? He pretends not to know what had happened and He asks them to tell Him. By doing this He teaches us that they knew everything that had happened to Jesus. They even recorded the facts accurately, but still they did not believe that it was necessary for Him to be crucified and to rise from the dead the third day according to the Scriptures.
5. What question does Jesus ask them? "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad"?
6. What does their reply tell us? Everyone in Jerusalem knew what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth.
7. How does Jesus respond to their question? He asks them another question about what happened.
8. How do they answer Him? They recall for Him how they believed that Jesus was the prophet who was going to redeem Israel (Deut 18) and how He had been condemned to death and crucified. They also reported to Him how the women who went to the tomb earlier that day had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive, and how the disciples went to the tomb and found it empty.
9. Did the disciples accurately report the basic facts surround the death and resurrection? Yes.
10. What fact caused them to doubt that Jesus was the Redeemer? His suffering and death.
11. What is ironic about them not believing that He was the Redeemer? The very cause for our redemption, Jesus' suffering and death for our sins, is what they stumbled over.
12. Why do they not believe? Faith in Christ can only be created by God's Word through which the Holy Spirit calls us to repentance and faith. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17)
13. How does Jesus respond to their unbelief? He calls them "Foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"
14. How does Jesus catechize them? He opens up to them all the Old Testament Scriptures teaching them from the Scriptures that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and die before entering into His glory in the resurrection.
15. How long did Jesus' catechesis from the Old Testament last? Perhaps as long as half a day, since the journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus was seven miles.
16. Why did the disciples ask Jesus to stay with them? It was toward evening and they wanted to hear more.
17. When did the disciples recognize Him? When He "Sat at table with them... took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them."

18. What happened immediately after they received the bread from Jesus? They recognized Him with their own eyes.
19. What was the breaking of the bread? The Lord's Supper
20. What preceded the breaking of the bread? Jesus' catechesis or preaching from the Old Testament.
21. What does this teach us about how the Lord's Supper should be celebrated today? The preaching of the Gospel from the Scriptures must always precede the celebration of the Lord's Supper, so that communicants receive the Sacrament with true faith in Jesus' Word.
22. How do we know that faith in Jesus' death and resurrection had been kindled in their hearts? They said to each other, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"
23. Did Jesus leave them? No. Luke records that Jesus "vanished from their sight." He is still present with us by His Word and Sacraments, even though we may not see Him with our eyes.
24. What did these disciples do immediately after receiving the Sacrament? They ran back to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven that Lord was risen indeed.
25. When did they say that Jesus was made known to them? "In the breaking of the bread."—The Lord's Supper.
26. Where should we seek Jesus? In the preaching of the Gospel and in the Lord's Supper.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, by the preaching of the Gospel from the Holy Scriptures, open our hearts to believe in Your death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we receive Your Body and Blood in true faith, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.