

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

“Jesus walks with His Church” Luke 24: 13-35 by Jean Davies April 2021

Pray, and read the study verses adding Colossians 1:18 a couple of times.

Have you ever been in a situation where someone who knew you well had failed to recognise you until some familiarity had dawned upon them? Maybe something physical had changed about you, or maybe you were out of context, out of place, for them. Maybe they were distracted and not alert to much outside of their own circumstances. **Q1 Can you give an example of this in your own life?**

It was the day of Jesus’ resurrection. As our two disciples, one named Cleopas, begin the 7-mile walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, their sad conversation so engrosses them that maybe they are unaware of the “stranger” who suddenly joins them on their journey. V15 tells us that “Jesus himself came up and walked along with them”. **Q2 Can you tell of a time in your life, maybe a particularly sad time, when you suddenly found He was walking along with you?** They did not recognise Him. More than that – “they were kept from recognising Him” (v16). **Q3 Why do you think they were kept from recognising Him?**

The duo become a trio, and, with one brief phrase, “What things?” (19), Jesus soon draws out of them the source of their sadness as they relate the events of the previous few days (v17-24). **Q4 How easy do you find “pouring out your heart” to Jesus?** Notice that He allows them to finish speaking without interruption. But then He reproves them in v25.

It is at this stage of their walk that Jesus escorts them. He takes them on a journey through the OT Scriptures (the Law and the Prophets). He expounds the Scriptures, explaining to them all that had been written concerning Himself. **Q5 To what lengths do you go to know the Scriptures and apply them? Do you ask Jesus to guide you and help you understand them? (see John 16:13,14).**

In v28, at journey’s end, events take a dramatic turn. As the stranger indicates a parting of the ways, they “urged him strongly” to stay with them. Was this their own home, or somewhere they had arranged to stay, I wonder. **Q6 What if they had not have been so cordial in their invitation; what do you think might have been the result? Is there a lesson in this question for us?**

It was in the ordinary sitting down for a meal that the extraordinary happened. As Jesus took the bread, blessed, and broke it, their eyes were suddenly opened, and they recognised Him – and He disappeared from their sight. The “image of the invisible God” became invisible to them; they would now begin to walk by faith and not by sight.

Jesus had escorted, expounded, and now He enkindled these two weary souls into new life. What a very different journey they undertook back to Jerusalem to find the other disciples (v33) and to exclaim “It is true! The Lord has risen”. **Q7 Is your soul weary and in need of enkindling? Will you turn to Jesus for a renewal?**

The “firstborn over all creation” was walking with His church, to make each one a new creation in Himself. This extends to us, as much a part of His church as they were, and who also look forward to His second coming when “every eye shall see Him” (Rev 1:7). In the words of John, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus”.

As He sat at the table to eat with them, He became the Enkindling Christ as the disciples spoke of “our hearts burning within us” (30-32)

The “image of the invisible God” became invisible to them; they would now begin to “walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7) The “firstborn over all creation” would be walking with His church to make each one a new creation in Himself (Col 1:15). This extends to us who look forward to His second coming when then (Rev 1:7) “every eye shall see Him”. Come Lord Jesus!