

## Luke 24: 13 – 35 An ordinary meal

As we enter the Emmaus Road story, we encounter two followers of Jesus. They are confused and disillusioned. The one who might redeem Israel (v21) has allowed himself to be arrested, imprisoned and crucified. Their grief is tinged with anger that they could have got it so wrong. How does Jesus respond to this swirl of emotions when he joins them on the road?

The temptation for them and us is to mask our feelings before God, to pretend that everything is ok. Psalm 139: 2-3 is a reminder of why this is futile. Why though is our honesty before God so important? Look at the opening verses of Habakkuk. Would we dare to speak and pray like that to the Lord?

What is it that stops these disciples from recognising Jesus? Why might this be?

Cleopas' description of Jesus is fairly accurate. What would you want to add to his description of Jesus that he can't see or understand?

*Reflection: It is really easy to think the right things about Jesus but not have a personal relationship with him. What helps you know more about him? What enables you to grow in your relationship with him?*

Jesus explains God's purposes by exploring the Scriptures with them – from Genesis, through Old Testament history and wisdom, through to the prophets. Why is the Old Testament so important in our understand of Jesus?

Some people argue that the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New Testament. How does what Jesus is doing on the Emmaus Road speak into that discussion?

What might enable us to grow in our understanding of how the Old and New Testaments fit together?

As they reflect upon their experience on the road, the disciples noted how "their hearts burned within them" as Jesus explained who he was from the

scriptures. John 16: 13 is an obvious link here. Why is it important that we see the work of the Spirit here?

In your own life, what has been your experience of Word and Spirit at work in you? How does your experience match with the disciples on the Emmaus Road?

For some of us faith is felt, instinctive and unquestioning. For others of us it is pondered, examined, studied and discussed. How do you make sure you get the right balance of feeling and thinking? Who do you listen to when your feelings may lead you astray or your thoughts go awry?

*Reflection: Jesus is leading a bible Study, and the Holy Spirit is at work in their hearts. Yet still they do not see Jesus. How can this encourage us as we pray for those who don't know Jesus? Do we persevere in prayer when we don't see immediate results?*

As the followers of Jesus approach their destination, they invite him to stay and eat. There is a strong Old Testament precedence for this (Genesis 18:1-8, Judges 6: 18 – 20) which is referenced in the New Testament (Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 4:9). How important do you think this is for today's church? What practically should it look like?

As we read verse 30, the words "he took bread, blessed it, broke it and give it to the disciples" resonates with other parts of Luke's gospel. Yet the direct link isn't with the Passover in Luke 22 but the feeding of the 5000 in Luke 9. What is the significance of this?

It is after the feeding miracle that Jesus explains about who he is (John 6:35ff & John 6:51ff). How does our understanding of Jesus being the bread of life give insight into what is happening here.

Despite the obvious connections with some of the amazing meals that Jesus has shared with others, this is just an ordinary meal. How is that an encouragement to us? What does it encourage us to do?

*Reflection: The disciples' eyes are opened to see Jesus (v31) – the use of the passive underlining the role of the Holy Spirit. Despite the Bible Study with Jesus, what does this teach us about the Gospel of Grace?*