

Jesus Ever And Always Part 2
Luke 24:13-35

Today as we again visit these precious words given to us here in Luke chapter 24, may we rejoice in the very special promise that the Lord Jesus is making to us in His words. Here, He is saying to us that while we might not have always been able to recognize Him and His imminent presence with us, He has always been here, from the very beginning. And yes, He will continue ever and always to be here with us, even to the end of days.

Listen again to the words of this special encounter between the Lord Jesus and these two men as they traveled on their way to Emmaus.

Luke chapter 24 beginning in verse 13,

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they communed and reasoned together about these things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. (Luke 24:13-35)

Jesus had walked among and ministered to the people of Galilee, Jerusalem and Judea for over thirty-three years. And his presence among them had been a great blessing as He preached the "good news" of repentance and salvation!

But now here, as He had arisen from the dead, and was preparing to return to heaven, it was time for the people to begin to understand another, far more important, more far-reaching truth about who He was, that He was not just present within their immediate moments in time, but that He had actually always been present on the earth.

From the very first moments of creation, and then continuing throughout all of time until the end of it, "He, Jesus, was the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the one who was and is and is to come, the Almighty God, the Great I AM!"

And Jesus well knew that those were strange concepts that would be far beyond the ordinary comprehension of man. But beginning here with these two men, and then continuing on to others by the ministry of the Holy Spirit whom He would send, He would reveal Himself as He really was, the eternal LORD God, the Savior of mankind.

Why He chose these two particular men, we are not told. They are not part of the twelve and not much spoken about in these scriptures.

But as we said in an earlier study, it is not who these two men were, but what they were doing that is of most importance to us. These men were responding to certain basic truths that had been thrust upon them over the past three days and their response to their experience was exactly as it should have been. And it explains, at least to some degree, why Jesus was ministering His words to them. We read in verse 14 . . .

¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵
And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. (Luke 24:14-15)

Simply put, these men wanted to know more about what had taken place, and who Jesus was. And their hearts and minds had been opened to receiving the truth. And that is what God wants of all of us, of you and me!

Jesus Christ is the essence, the heart, the center of all that God the Father desires and intends for each of us and He wants us to know Jesus intimately.

And our part in this equation is not a hard one. It is simply to “surrender” ourselves to Him and, by faith, to devote ourselves to diligently seeking after Him.

Again, those words from Hebrews 11:6!

⁶ . . . without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

If we will surrender our hearts to do this, our part, we can be confident that God will be generous to us in our pursuit. His Holy Spirit will live within us and will continually reveal Jesus to our inmost understanding.

Again here in these words, these two men were doing exactly as they should. They were pursuing after God. They were talking, communing together and reasoning together about all that had taken place.

And though at the moment their understanding of Jesus was limited, thinking only that He was supposed to come and redeem them from their Roman oppressors. God was gracious to them in their ignorance. And He would use the mysterious events of the past three days to reveal His real plan to them, a divine plan!

I'm reminded about some of my own first days as a believer in Christ. I recall that in my search to know more about who the Lord Jesus was and what His purposes were for me, I kept asking different people about their own understanding of Him.

When I ventured to ask one young man who he understood Jesus to be, he answered by saying that he had been taught that Jesus was a good man, a good teacher and a good example for us to follow, and that we should pattern our lives after Him.

And while that young man's explanation seemed to have some truth within it, I can recall being very skeptical of such answers. His understanding of Jesus seemed far too general and far too small and impersonal. But it was an important conversation for me in that it provoked me to want to search more deeply into who Jesus really was. And I did.

Again, for these two men, from the words given here, we know that the events of the past few days had also prompted them to want to know more about Jesus. Their words here describing Him as being, "Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people," probably recalled things to their minds that they had personally witnessed about Him, His miracles, His feeding of the 5000, His healing of the sick, His casting out of demons, with those things pressing them on forward to know and to understand even more.

And that is the exact kind of response that invites Jesus to come and be present within our own midst. And that is what took place with these men.

Note here the simplicity of these men's encounter with Jesus. There was no elegant evangelistic crusade in progress, although those crusades are excellent. This was just two men walking along a roadway communing and reasoning together about the events of the past few days.

And we can see from these words that these events had come as a complete surprise to them and to most everyone in Jerusalem at the time. It is said here that they were "astonished", and especially at the report that Jesus had arisen.

You and I are fortunate in having these scriptures. We have read and heard these stories hundreds, perhaps thousands of times. But not so these men! This was all very new to them, taking place right within those immediate moments.

And so yes, they were surprised and they were also confused.

But again, in amidst their confusion, they were still doing exactly as they should have been doing, they were communing and reasoning together. And by doing as they should, they were putting themselves into a position to receive God's truth. As Jesus had told them on another occasion,

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

And He had also said to them in Matthew chapter 18,

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

These two men were "gathered together in Jesus' name" and were communing and reasoning together, asking and seeking and knocking, hoping to better understand the mysterious events of the past few days.

And just as Jesus promised, He came into their midst and He immediately began to explain things that they had never known before, things about His eternal existence, things about the suffering He had just endured and the purposes for it, things too wonderful for the ordinary mind to comprehend but were coming clear to them as He spoke.

Listen again, verse 25,

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

Folks, those scriptures that Jesus expounded to these men revealed Him to be the promised Messiah, the Anointed One, the one sent from God the Father to reconcile men's souls back to Him.

And that was then, and ever would be, the message that Jesus would convey to the minds of men.

He knew then and He knows now the deepest thoughts of men, that our understanding is limited. And He also knows that our hope is often limited to our needs for the immediate moment. That was so with these men and it is so with you and me. And that kind of hope is far too limited.

Is that not so for you and me, that most often, our communing and reasoning and calling out to the Lord is all about us, self-centered, involving some present need for help, a problem in our family or in our employment, or for some other pressing need.

But Folks, our "life" and Christ's mission among us is so much more important than just these few days of trouble that we endure in our short lifespan. Jesus is eternal and beginning with our salvation, so are we!

And if we want our understanding of Him and our relationship with Him to be more than Him just being a good man, a good teacher, a good example for us to follow, someone that we should pattern our lives after, then we will need to open our hearts and our minds to Him and begin to seek and to ask and to knock at His door.

And if we do that, He will surely begin to reveal Himself to us in ways that we have never known before. We'll find that we far more need for Him to be the Savior of our souls, the one who shed His blood, died, was buried and was resurrected to cleanse us from our sins.

Here, in as plain a words as He could use, He said to them, "don't just look at the immediate days, though troubled they may be. Look and see that I have been with you from the beginning, that I AM ever and always with you, that I AM eternal and I want you to be eternal with me."

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

Jesus has always been here, from the very beginning. And yes, He will continue ever and always to be here with us, even to the end of days.

No doubt Jesus told them that “before Abraham ever was, I AM, that He was and is the Almighty YAHWEH. The I AM who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush.

That He is the beginning and the ending of all things that exist. As He declared to us in Revelation chapter 1,

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

And in the beginning, it was Him, the Lord Jesus who had only to speak, and with the simple words of His mouth, He was able to call every part of creation into existence. Those words in Hebrews chapter 11. Listen!

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

And that He, Jesus is the “Word of God” spoken about here, the same Word spoken about in John chapter 1. Listen!

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

And it was Jesus’ own hands who in the first days of creation took up the dust of the earth and from that dust formed Adam in His own image. And it was His own breath that He breathed into the nostrils of Adam and gave Him life. Listen to those words given in Genesis chapter 2,

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

And after Adam and Eve had committed their sins, it was Jesus Himself who would be the “Seed of woman” spoken about in Genesis 3:15 who would bring destruction upon satan for the evil he had done. There in Genesis chapter 3 He said,

¹⁵ . . . I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

And no, Jesus is not often mentioned specifically by name in the Old Testament, but it is clearly Him that is being spoken about. And again, that is what He said to these two men. He said,

²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:26-27)

We see that suffering that He spoke about so clearly in Isaiah chapter 53. Listen!

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. (Isaiah 53:3-7)

And it was clearly the Lord Jesus that David prophesied about in Psalm chapter 22 when He spoke the words,

¹ My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax,
it has melted away within me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth,
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁸ They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing. (Psalm 22:1)

And also, it was Jesus who visited with Abraham and told him about the soon coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

And it was Jesus who gave the Book of the Law to Moses.

And it was Jesus who there in the wilderness was in the cloud by day and in the fire by night and who provided the manna for food.

And it was Jesus who was represented by Boaz as being the Kinsman Redeemer in the Book of Ruth.

And it was Jesus who walked through the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

And it was Jesus who was Job's redeemer from all His sufferings.

And Jesus was the One that David wrote his Psalms of love too.

And Jesus is the "Lover" of the "beloved" in the Songs of Solomon.

And the personality of Christ can be seen in Hosea who would join Himself to a depraved bride and make her holy.

Folks, it is just as we are told here in today's passage, He was and is and ever will be with us. He is truly the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. And though we can't see Him, He is even now present with us, and in us, every moment.

And as He did with these men, He wants to make Himself known to you and me. And we have only to "ask, to seek and to knock" and He will open every door of understanding and reveal Himself to our eyes and to our listening ears.

Our part is to simply do as these two men did. As we walk through the pathways of our daily life, we need always to be communing and reasoning with each other about the Lord Jesus. And as we do that, He will surely come into our midst. And just as He did with these men, He will open our eyes and we will see Him. That is His promise to us.

These words from Matthew chapter 28 as we close . . .

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Pray with me.

