

BIBLE STUDY ONE

With Rajie Muthukumar



We are on the 3rd Sunday after Easter and looking at the stories of the Resurrected Christ's encounter.

Today we are looking at the story of the 2 men meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Two men, who have been following Jesus for almost 3 years and have experienced Jesus's teachings, healings and witnessed Him performing multitude of miracles.

They also have witnessed Jesus hailed as King on Palm Sunday, no sooner betrayed by a colleague and accused by the authority, condemned to death, crucified and laid in a tomb.

They were so hopeful that Jesus was the Messiah who has come to save the Israelites from the Roman rulers

And so, these men were now disheartened, disappointed, confused, angry and anxious returning to their home towns.

On their way they met a stranger, an Intruder you may say joined them - not to know what has happened to Jesus of Nazareth.

After Listening to all what the men had to say, he started explaining the scriptures and saying how important it was for the Messiah to suffer and die on the cross and that it was all in God's great plan.

The story goes on ... and as it was getting nearly dark and they nearly reached their destination,

They invited the stranger to come home and stay the night and

without any objection he accepted the invitation and went with them.

As they were about to share the meal the visitor lifted the bread to say Grace then they realised the visitor was no stranger, but was the risen Christ Him-self.

Jesus disappeared and the two men ran back to Jerusalem to inform the others that they have had a special encounter with Jesus.

Briefly, I like to mention 3 points.

1. On the road to Emmaus Jesus as a stranger not only gave companionship to walk, he allowed them to speak and listen to their concerns and worries, comforted them in explaining the importance of what has happened and how it is written in the scriptures.

The same resurrected Jesus comes to us in so many different ways,

He is at your door step, creating situations to join in.

2. The men invited Jesus to their home, Jesus accepted their invitation. Yes, He waited for an Invite from them.

It is up to us to invite Him into our hearts. He will come into us and have fellowship with us.

3. The men ran back to share the information with the others. Yes, He has invited us into discipleship and expecting us to share the Good news with others.

He is wanting us to share His love and the Good News of Jesus with others in our words and deeds. Especially, this dark Lock-down and uncertain times. We as disciples we are called to spend time in prayer for us and others and love one another.

May the Resurrected Lord meet you in your needs, comfort you and give you His peace.

May you feel His presence in your heart, May you be filled with Compassion towards the others and be moved towards the real discipleship.

Be Safe and be blessed. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY TWO

With Rev. Barbara McIntivey



Our theme for Lent and Easter has been *Opening the Scriptures - setting our hearts on fire.*

So let us thank God for the gift of Scripture – this holy library of books which includes books of stories, laws, history, poetry, wisdom, prophesy, visions and the good news of Jesus and tales and letters about the early church.

Scripture has the power to **challenge** our thinking, to **comfort** and to **reveal God** in our lives and to **set our hearts on fire.**

The two disciples in this story had obviously been followers of Jesus but they were ordinary – not in the group of twelve chosen ones – one is named as Cleopas – was he going home to Emmaus with his wife Mary?

They were obviously sad and perplexed discussing what had happened in Jerusalem whilst they were there for the Passover Festival – the death of Jesus whom they had hoped was the Messiah who would save the Jewish nation from the occupying Romans and the rumour that the tomb where Jesus had been laid was empty.

Jesus came alongside them and asked what they were discussing and listened to them explain the reason for their distress then he explained all that was prophesied in the Scriptures about himself.

Cleopas and his companion were **challenged** by Jesus who said: *How foolish you are and slow to believe all the prophets have spoken!*

They were **comforted** by learning that what happened to Jesus fulfilled Scripture which foretold that the Messiah had to suffer and die on the cross before being raised to life and glory after three days. As Jesus **revealed** these things about himself **their hearts were set on fire.**

In a commentary on Luke Gospel I read these words from a sermon on this Emmaus Road story written by a preacher called Cindy Holtrop:

Our hearts burn when the words of Scripture meet the horizon of our needs; that is when the Word comes so close it shouts our name, it confronts our despair, shapes our future, and offers us Easter hope.

I end with a personal story some of you may have heard me tell before – one afternoon, years ago now, feeling very sad and depressed I was going to visit my mother who was very ill in hospital following a series of disabling strokes. I was on a local bus in Sussex when I saw a poster in the window of a bungalow with this text from Deuteronomy (33: 27) *The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

This part of a single verse from Scripture spoke to me – shouted my name if you like – it met my need and gave me **comfort** by reminding me that my mother was loved by God now and for all eternity and **challenged** me to truly trust God for the future. Also **my mind was opened to see** and have hope that neither I nor my mother could slip out of the loving arms of God whatever happened. This gift of Scripture in someone's window **warmed my heart** that day and still stays special for me.

May all our hearts burn with the knowledge from this Scripture that we are safe in God's cradling arms whatever happens to us, or to those we love, during these troubling times of the coronavirus and that we may believe that nothing as St Paul writes: *will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Amen



REFLECTION

With Katrina Roland

Revelation through Your Word

- Spoken word commanding creation into existence
- Spoken in dreams and visions; Isaiah ...Daniel ..Joseph.. John
- Spoken in encounters with Adam and Eve – Abraham Moses Paul and many more – in gardens, a potters house ..a cave....on journeys...
- Words on a page – poems; songs; laments; prophecy; letters; psalms; gospel and more
- Jesus the Word at the beginning coming in human form

And breaking of bread and body – breaking to give life and sustenance and understanding and insight

In the touch of healing – blind men's eyes opened ... lepers cleansed .. paralysed to walk.. woman's bleeding stopped as Yours flowed

- Words of compassion and challenge and re – assurance
'let the children come to me'.... 'Follow me'.... ' Mary'
- The empty tomb ... stone rolled far away...

Revelation through the

- Voice of a friend – words and tone and inflexion and emotion
- Expression of a friend's thoughts and feelings and their experiences
- Words we read on a page of email or text or letter or poem or story or essay or sermon or hymn
- Physical presence of another in gesture and touch and body language and just their 'being'

Revelation through

- Our voice – our words and tone and inflexion and emotion
- Our written words of email or text or letter or poem or story or essay or sermon or hymn
- Our thoughts and feelings and experiences each day
- Our physical presence of gestures and touch and body language and just our 'being'

At different ages and stages of our lives

At any moment in our days

You reveal Yourself

The Resurrected One

in so many different ways!