

Sunday Theme: **GOD'S TRIUMPHANT WORD**

Topic: **A BURNING ENCOUNTER**

Text: **Luke 24:13-32**

The most important reality in the world is truth. The truth is found in the Word of God. Only those who understand the Bible can know the truth about God's will. Only those who know the truth of the Bible can live fulfilled, obedient, blessed, effective, and joyful lives. **Therefore the greatest service that can ever be rendered to anyone is to explain to them the meaning of the Bible.** We call that Bible exposition. That means to explain the meaning of Scripture. Christ is the model for that service.

A. THE NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING – Ignorance of Scripture

- Jesus confronts two of His followers who are ignorant, who are in the darkness, who are filled with doubt, who are confused, who are distressed, and gives them the clarity of a true understanding of Scripture.
- They had a lack of understanding of the Scriptures, that's why they couldn't deal with the death of Christ. Therefore they had no place in their theology for a resurrection.
- This is not because they rejected the Scripture.
- This is not because they never read the Scripture.
- This is not because they didn't believe the Scripture.
- It is simply because they had a partial understanding of the Scripture.
- A partial understanding of the Scripture is not enough and always dangerous.
- Verse 21 you see their dilemma: "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel."
- They all expected was a kingdom redemption, a triumphant redemption, a royal redemption, a liberation from occupation by the Romans.
- What they didn't expect was the death of the Messiah.
- **He rebukes them for not knowing Scripture and its meaning.**
- **He rebukes them for not believing, because they are responsible.**
- But the rebuke is gracious, and the rebuke is mild
- And He immediately expositis the full range of Old Testament Scripture from Moses through all the prophets.
- There is never an excuse for biblical ignorance to those who possess the Bible.
- **He doesn't blame the Scripture.**
- **He doesn't say, "Well, the Old Testament is really a hard book."**
- **Doesn't say, "I feel your pain, I feel your pain. It's so hard to understand the Old Testament."**

B. THE SOURCE OF UNDERSTANDING – Exposition of Scripture

- Verse 25, *"Then Jesus said to the two men, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true. You should believe everything the prophets said."*
- Jesus explains the Scripture, and shatters the darkness and confusion with the light of truth.
- It's late in the day, Cleopas and his companion are heading home.
- They were sad, discouraged, and devastated. All their hopes, all their dreams, have been smashed, dashed, crushed.

- And there's nothing to stay in Jerusalem for, the Passover is over. And they head home, gloomy, sad, confused.
- Luke 24:27 – *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”*
- Jesus wanted to explain to them the Scriptures while they still thought He was just a stranger, **so that they and all of us would understand that the power is in the explanation, not the person.**

C. THE RESULT OF UNDERSTANDING – Knowledge of Scripture

- Luke 24:32 – *“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?”*
- If you have the Bible, you are accountable to know what it teaches.
- You are to believe what the Bible teaches.
- God cannot hold you accountable to know and believe what you cannot know or believe.
- If you have the Bible, you are accountable to know the Bible, and Jesus says we are a fool if we don't examine it carefully enough to know it.
- It wasn't that they didn't believe the Scripture, it's that they didn't believe the part of the Scripture they didn't know.
- They didn't reject the Word of God, they didn't reject the Scripture, they didn't openly not believe the Scripture; **they just didn't believe what they didn't know.**
- To borrow the words of Paul, “Study to show themselves approved of God, rightly dividing the Word.”
- The problem was they had a selected, limited, partial understanding of Scripture, which is so very dangerous.
- Failure to search the Scripture, and believe the Scripture is our responsibility.

There are so many important lessons for us in this story. **The first great lesson is knowing that Christ is alive. The second great lesson is knowing that Scripture is alive. The 3rd great lesson about of the power of an explanation of the Scripture.** The Lord Jesus becomes the living expositor to give them the whole truth regarding Messiah, all that the prophets have spoken.