

Easter - Meeting Jesus

Jesus Teaching the Scriptures

Foundation

Bible passage : Luke 24.25-27 & 44-48

It is hard to imagine how amazing it must have been for those who saw Jesus alive after He had been put to death. The Bible describes both their joy and fear. Yet, if they might have been inclined to have a party on the day He rose Jesus had other ideas. On the journey to Emmaus with just two disciples, and in the evening with a larger group, Jesus spent the time teaching them!

On the road to Emmaus (Lk 2.57-57) the fact that the two disciples were “kept from recognizing him” (v16) meant that they weren’t distracted during the lesson as they walked. We are told that Jesus began with Moses and all the Prophets. “Moses” here refers to the first five books of the Bible, whilst “the Prophets” includes from Joshua to 2 Kings as well as the books named after prophets. But Jesus then “interpreted to them in all the Scriptures things concerning himself”. The word is used of translating from one language to another and it is as if some things in the Old Testament seemed like another language for them, but Jesus translated it.

“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”

Similarly in the evening Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (v45). He had previously spoken about these things (v44) as we can see from the Gospels, but the disciples just didn’t get it, it was as if their minds were closed until Jesus opened them. This time Jesus refers to Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms, this could again mean all the Scriptures, in which case

*“My wife and my mother in law”
(1915) based on a German postcard of 1888. People can often only see one face until the second is pointed out to them.*



Psalms is short for the books often known as “the writings”, or it could mean specifically the Psalms. We don’t need to speculate about what Jesus said. Now that the disciples were able “to understand” they clearly passed on what they had learned and we can learn it too from the many times the New Testament writers quote from the Old and refer to it being fulfilled and so on.

However, in both the afternoon and evening lessons there was a particular point that Jesus taught, about why it was necessary for Him, the Christ, to suffer (v26 & v46) though He also spoke about entering glory and rising from the dead. The significance of this can be seen from the gospels because Jesus did speak many times about the fact that he was going to be put to death (see unit 12 for example) but they just could not understand as they did not believe the Christ (Messiah) would suffer and die. Yet Jesus showed, and we can see, that God had revealed this long beforehand. It was like the picture shown above, as if they could only see one face, but once the other was pointed out to them, then it was obvious.



Like the disciples we can learn from Jesus about how the Old Testament points to Him and His suffering.