

QTC569. The Way of the Burning Heart. A Post-Easter Reflection. 01 May 2025

"The Way of the Burning Heart. A Post-Easter Reflection." | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 569

Introduction

It is the Sunday after Easter. Is your heart still burning? No, not chocolate egg overload heartburn, but the Emmaus road 'heartburn'. Do you remember what happened to those two Emmaus road followers of Christ after the resurrection? They were confused and disheartened. Things had not turned out as they expected.

"But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21 NRSV)

Missing the Point

Sometimes, we can miss the point, just like Cleopas and his companion. Jesus did come to redeem Israel, just not in the way they thought. He came to constitute a new Israel, with a new covenant. This time, God's law would be on the heart, not stone tablets. These two disciples needed more teaching. In his grace and mercy, Jesus provided that. As a result, they find an inner compulsion to retrace their steps and tell others of their encounter with the risen Jesus.

"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:35 NRSV)

Lessons

We could take several lessons from this remarkable encounter. However, what sticks with me is how they talk to each other after Jesus has made himself known and then moved on, leaving them to reflect on the experience.

"They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"" Luke 24:32 NRSV

Why were their hearts burning? Was it guilt, fear or regret? I think not. And why were their hearts not burning before they met Jesus? What was missing? What was the difference? Shouldn't they have already been 'fired up'?

Think about it. They knew the tomb was empty. They knew some women had met angels who told them Jesus was alive. They knew the evidence, and as far as we know, they did not question it. Still, dullness of heart was their settled state - until Jesus showed up.

Jesus Showed Up

I believe their hearts burned because Jesus connected their knowledge about the resurrection with himself. He walked with them. He taught them from the Scriptures. He ate with them. A life punctuated with knowledge about Jesus suddenly became a life walking with Jesus. No wonder they were changed!

Do not allow the Easter passion to pale as the chocolate fog fades. Our Lord lives! And because he lives, we have hope. Hope for what? There's your prayer focus for the week ahead:

"Thank you, Father, that Jesus lives. Keep my heart burning, and because he lives, I...."

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither. CCLI Song #16880. © 1971 Hanna Street Music

Share your thoughts, insights, or questions with me and the other listeners. And if you haven't yet, grab a free copy of my eBook on spiritual disciplines, "*How God Grows His People*," at www.malcolmcox.org by signing up for my newsletter.

Take care, and God bless, Malcolm

Music used in this recording: "Carpe Diem" Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com). Licensed under Creative Commons: By Attribution 4.0 License. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Images from Stencil: <https://getstencil.com/>