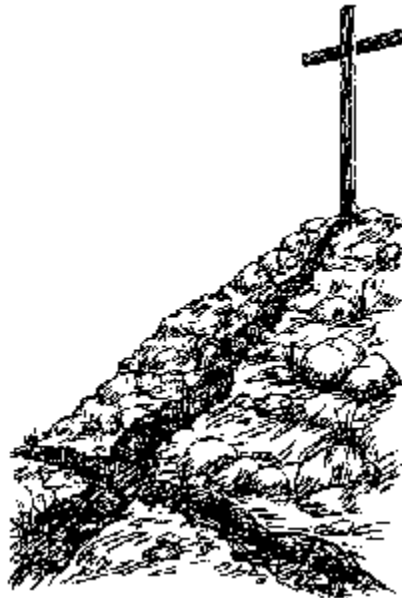


Known In The Breaking of Bread

Luke 24:30-35

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee
38351

Brother David Buffaloe, Pastor
www.bibleteacher.org



Luke 24:28-35 (KJV) "And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. {29} But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them." {30} And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. {31} And their eyes were opened¹, and they knew² him; and he vanished out of their sight. {32} And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn³ within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? {33} And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, {34} Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. {35} And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread."

¹ Aorist Passive Indicative *dianoigo* {pronounced dee-an-oy'-go}, to open the mind or reveal something that had previously been closed. This word is used for the birth of a child (**Luke 2:23**) and for the opening of a deaf man's ears (**Mark 7:34**).

² Aorist Active Indication *epiginosko* {pronounced ep-ig-in-occe'-ko}, to have *intimate knowledge* of someone.

³ kaio, {pronounced kah'-yo}, to be consumed, to be fired up, be melted

The disciples on the Road to Emmaus, we are told, came to intimately know Jesus when He broke bread with them. As our text says:

Luke 24:35 “And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.”

Why did the “breaking of bread” open the eyes of these men so they knew Jesus? I believe when Jesus broke that bread it acted as a trigger. Cleopas was not at the first Lord's Table (see **Matthew 26:20**), but he was obviously well acquainted with the eleven remaining disciples. That is obvious because he headed back to Jerusalem to tell the eleven Apostles that he saw Jesus. Something about the breaking of bread opened Cleopas' and his companion's eyes so they could see Jesus at that moment. Jesus was **known of them in the breaking of bread**. The Stranger who walked with them on the road to Emmaus was no longer a stranger. It was Jesus! He's alive!

1. The Lord's Table Is A Reminder That You Invited Jesus Into Your Life

Luke 24:28-29 (KJV) "And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as

though he would have gone further. {29} But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them."

Two men, Cleopas and his friend, walked with Jesus down the road to Emmaus but had *no idea* that they were talking to Jesus. The Lord was right there, resurrected, but they did not know Him. Jesus came into their home and revealed Himself to them when they *invited Him into their home*. We are told in:

These disciples ended up at a table eating with Jesus *because* they invited Him into their lives. If those disciples had allowed Jesus to continue on – and the Bible says “**he made as though he would have gone further**” - then the wonderful statement “**And it came to pass**” would have never been made. These people sat down at the Table *strangers* to Jesus, but when He broke bread with them *they intimately knew Him*. The disciples knew nothing of Jesus' resurrection when they started out that day, but Jesus came to them as they wandered.

“**Abide with us**”: three wonderful words that caused their eyes to be opened. Many people followed after Jesus in His lifetime, but their followed for the wrong reasons. Some followed for healing, others just to be fed:

John 6:26 (KJV) "Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled."

So many people have been given an opportunity to know Jesus, to have their minds opened, to come into the family of God. Yet so many people have *refused* to invite Jesus into their lives. Some may honestly have invited Jesus in, but just so that He could *heal* them or *clean their houses*. Some sought Jesus to harm Him, to disprove Him. These have yet died in their sins (**John 8:21**).

Two things are absolutely necessary for your salvation: *confession* with your mouth, and *belief* in your heart "**that God hath raised him from the dead**". The Scripture says:

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

If you have never invited Jesus into your life, then you have never intimately known Him. One thing follows the next: the first must come before the second is evident.

2. The Table Is A Reminder Of Our Transition From Darkness To Light

Luke 24:30-31 (KJV) "And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. {31} And their eyes were opened¹, and they knew² him"

The Lord's Table is a place for the seeing, a place for those whose eyes *have been opened*.

"**And it came to pass**". These are the first words of our text today, and very important words. This phrase occurs 458 times in the Scripture, and always it signals a transition – a moving from one state or one place to another. The first time "And it came to pass" is used in Scripture it talks about a terrible tragedy. The phrase is found in:

Genesis 4:8 (KJV) "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

It's *first* use records a terrible hate. It shows us an innocent man slain for following God, and a guilty man trying to hide his sin from God. That phrase has been repeated over and over in human history as

brother has killed brother, usually for no good reason at all. “It came to pass” often points to something terrible in Scripture – but not today, not in our passage. Something terrible did happen. Just as Abel, an innocent man, was killed by the guilty, another Innocent Man was killed. Three days before this Man had been put on trial. He was accused of treason, falsely accused, for He clearly told Pilate:

John 18:36 (KJV) "... My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

Pilate found no fault in this Man, but tried to release Him. The very thought of letting this Person go was so terrible to the crowd that they shouted Pilate down:

Matthew 27:23 (KJV) "[Pilate] said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified."

Pilate bowed to the will of the people. He had Jesus beaten until the prophecy was fulfilled:

Isaiah 52:14 (KJV) "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:"

Cleopas and another unnamed man was on the road to Emmaus (**Luke 24:18**). They were very sad as they walked, for they were returning from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus. These two men knew Jesus, knew about His crucifixion, and had been to the empty tomb. This wasn't a happy day for these men. The tomb was empty – the Lord was dead. Once more Cain slew Abel! As the two men walked another Man, the resurrected Christ, came up and began to walk with them. He expounded the Scriptures, and told Cleopas and his companion how the Bible prophesied that Jesus had to die for our sins (**Luke 24:27**). Jesus' death was not a *useless death*, but it was a *prophetic death*. It was a *necessary death*. Though Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than his brother Cain did (**Hebrews 11:4**), his sacrifice was only an *animal sacrifice*. It was not good enough to secure the believer's salvation. Jesus Christ *had to die*:

Hebrews 12:24 (KJV) "... Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

The bread we break reminds us of Christ's broken body, the fruit of the vine we drink is a reminder of our Lord's precious Blood, spilled for us. The sharing of the Table is both sad as well as joyous. Sad that Jesus had to die for me, but joyous, for the Risen Savior is not gone. He is a *living, resurrected*

Mediator who makes intercession for us.

We who are Christians by faith in Christ are *new creatures* – we are raised from spiritual darkness and walk in newness of life. We *were* dead in our trespasses and sins – we are now alive, raised in newness of life in Him. The Bible says:

Romans 6:4-6 (KJV) "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: {6} Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

A Christian is a new creature, a work in progress. We are members of the family of God because of the broken Body and shed Blood of our Savior. We invited Jesus into our lives, and He performed a miraculous work on us. We are no longer things of death. Jesus took my hell, so I could share His Heaven!

3. The Table Is A Reminder That We Serve A Risen Savior

Luke 24:32-35 (KJV) "And they said one to

another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? {33} And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, {34} Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. {35} And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread."

Doesn't the Word of Christ burn³ in you? If you are saved it does burn in you. It consumes you, drives you to work for the Lord.

I fear a Christian I have to beg to work. I fear FOR a professed Christian who has no heart to serve Christ. Yes, we weary, but knowing that *He's alive*, that's He's risen just as He said He would ought to drive you to greater striving for Jesus! Cleopas and his friend had just gotten to Emmaus. They had walked *sixty furlongs*, about a seven mile journey. When they found out that Jesus was risen from the grave the Bible tells us:

Luke 24:33 (KJV) "... And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem ..."

In other words they got up *immediately* and headed back to Jerusalem. Consider that! When's the last time you walked seven miles, turned around, and

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walked seven more miles? These men were energized! Jesus is alive! We must tell the eleven, the Apostles who remain. And that's exactly what they did. They got up **the same hour** and went back to Jerusalem. They found the Apostles and told them – Our Lord is risen from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:13-20 (KJV) "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: {14} And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. {15} Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. {16} For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: {17} And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. {18} Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. {19} If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. {20} But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

The testimony of the Apostles is Christ is risen. Jesus rose from the dead, and we saw Him. The men and women of the early Church would be tortured as the unbelieving world tried to force them to say that it was all an elaborate hoax. Was it a hoax? No! Did Jesus Christ rise from the dead just as He said He would! Yes, He did. Those on the road to Emmaus saw Him, and were so excited they walked back to

Jerusalem to tell others about Jesus.

The Lord's Table reminds us that Christ paid a terrible penalty for our sins. This day, Resurrection Sunday, reminds us that Jesus is with us, both in our lives and at this Table. May God prepare your hearts and minds as we now prepare to serve our Lord's Table.

Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org;

or e-mail him by writing
webmaster@bibleteacher.org.

