

## WHAT ARE THESE WORDS?

Luke 24:17

***“And He (Jesus) said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?””***

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Luke 24: 13-35 records the story of two disciples of Jesus who are walking along the road, returning to their village after witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus. Verses 14, 15 & 17 tell us *“And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them,”* saying *“What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”*

In these words, the Lord Jesus showed them that He was aware of their conversation. We know that He is aware of ours also, and is He not addressing to us the same question, in effect, ‘What is it you are talking about?’

In His Word there are frequent references to speaking encouragement, to building up one another, nourishing another’s faith by our words. Also references to comforting one another with the comfort that points to Him who is the Source of all comfort, help and strength.

In 2 Corinthians 1: 3-5 we read;

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

What precious and encouraging words these are; indeed, beautiful words of truth, to be received, believed and acted upon.

The conversation of these two companions on the road shows them as being somewhat downcast, discouraged and feeling hopeless, but then, in their downcast state, Jesus Himself drew alongside and walked with them. These two discouraged disciples were encouraged by Jesus to look away from the

outward appearance of the situation they were concerned with and to look to Him.

- Jesus cared about their journey;
- He cared about their conversation;
- He cared about their need;
- He came alongside to walk and talk with them.

Jesus brought His word to them when they were not recognizing His presence. It was in the ensuing fellowship of sharing a meal with them, that recognition came. We read;

*“Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’” (Luke 24:31-32)*

They received the word that He gave into their hearts; they were to go forward now in the strength of that word and in faith. They did so, for;

*“...they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together...and they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.” (Luke 24:33, 35).*

The conversation on their journey had been from viewing events from their own reasoning. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”*

How easy it is to ‘lean on our own understanding’ instead of trusting when we do not understand events. Now, the new journey they undertook was with joy, faith and purpose, with assurance of a living Christ, always present with them and now central in their conversation and the action of living.

How encouraging it is to know that the Lord Jesus is alongside us, sharing our walk and communing with us along the way as we look to Him.

May our hearts, too, burn with the joy of His word to us and our response be as written in Psalm 62:8;

*“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us.”*

And in Psalm 34:1;

*“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth”.*