

Living Lent | Easter

The Resurrection

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those

who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-49 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Throughout biblical history, many have donned the title of 'revelator' to the apostle John, who is responsible for recording end-time prophecy as it was given to him from heaven on the Isle of Patmos. However, Luke reminds us of the grace that Jesus showed as he continuously bore witness to who He was, His earthly mission, His origin, and His coming Kingdom. Hence, He is Christ the Revelator! The greatest 'revelatory' who has ever lived.

Jesus spent much time during his earthly ministry calling people to repentance and belief in Him as the Son of God. Even as His very own prophecy of His death and resurrection unfolded, Jesus still took time to see to it that many had the opportunity to press through unbelief, doubt, and fear in route to belief.

In Luke 24, Jesus, seeing two men on the road to Emmaus who were obviously distraught and disappointed by Jesus' death, joined a conversation about Himself and started, with all of the prophets beginning with Moses, explaining their prophecies pointing to Him. After Jesus revealed Himself to them, they spread the word of His resurrection to the remaining eleven disciples. Then Jesus showed up in the room they were in and revealed Himself while also reassuring them that His tangible presence among them was indeed the fruit of the truth as shared and evident in all of the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the book of Psalms (v.44). Then He opened their minds so that they could better understand that He indeed is who He said He was.

Among many other things, this is certainly one of the greatest ways that Jesus went above and beyond to show His love and extend the mercy of God to man in order that they may believe in Him and have eternal life.

May we all take a new look at what it means to take Jesus at His word. May His words cause our hearts to burn within us and brand us as they enter our eye and ear gates. The truth of the matter is that our very lives and eternal destination are dependent on the words of the One who by Him all things were made and spoken into existence. All He wants is for us to believe them. The more we take Him at His word, the more effective our service for Him becomes. The more effective our service for Him becomes, the more likely a lost and dying world have the opportunity to believe in Him.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Reverend Jermaine Johnson is the Worship Pastor at Bay Harbour Church of God in Brunswick, just south of Blythe Island. Bay Harbour Church of God has a rich and diverse history, spanning over 35 years of ministry to the Golden Isles area. Throughout the years, there has been one characteristic that has marked the church during good times and challenging ones-perseverance. The congregation at Bar Harbour lives out its mission to be a "light shining forth" heavily supporting local

and international mission work as well as expanding its tangible efforts to further the Kingdom of God.

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