

## From the Tomb to the Upper Room

### The Mystery of Recognition

Luke 24:13-35

#### INTRO.

This morning, I want to invite you to take a journey – a sacred walk that takes place in the hours following the resurrection of Jesus ... We're turning our attention to a powerful and mysterious event recorded in Luke 24:13–32 – commonly known as The Road to Emmaus ... Now, I won't be reading the entire passage aloud today – but I do want to offer a brief summary to bring this scene – vividly to life – in our hearts.

#### Summary of Luke 24:13–32 – The Road to Emmaus

On the very day Jesus rose from the dead, two of His disciples were walking the road from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus ... As they walked, they were deep in conversation – grappling with all they had just witnessed: the crucifixion, - the burial, - and the strange reports of an empty tomb ... While they talked, - a stranger drew near and began to walk with them ... It was Jesus Himself – but they were kept from recognizing Him ... He asked them what they were discussing, - and they poured out their disappointment and confusion, - admitting that they had hoped Jesus was the one to redeem Israel ... Then Jesus – still unknown to them – began to open the Scriptures ... From Moses through the prophets, - He unveiled how all of it had pointed to the Messiah's suffering and glory ... Their hearts began to stir as the Word came alive ... When they reached Emmaus, - they urged Him to stay ... And at the table, - something profound happened ... As He took the bread, - blessed it, - broke it, - and gave it to them, - suddenly their eyes were opened – and they recognized Him ... In that very instant, - He vanished from their sight ... But the revelation had already taken root ... In awe they said, “Did not our hearts burn within us - while He talked with us on the road - and opened the Scriptures to us?” ... Moved by the encounter, - they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share what had happened – how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **TRANS.**

So, this morning, I would like us to explore three profound questions that arise from this sacred encounter ... My prayer is that, - as we lean into these questions, - the Holy Spirit will lead us into transformational revelation – awakening our spiritual awareness and deepening our union with Christ, - that we may walk - not just with Him, - but in Him.

### **Why Did God Hide Jesus from Their Eyes? (v. 16)**

**Verse 16** ... “But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”

#### **Spiritual Insight: Hidden to Be Revealed**

God did not conceal Jesus from their eyes to deceive them – but to awaken them ... He veiled Himself not to punish their doubt, - but to initiate them into a greater revelation ... Catch this: Sometimes the Lord must withhold physical sight – in order to awaken spiritual perception ... When the familiar is hidden, - the heart is provoked to seek ... When the eyes cannot see, - the ears must be tuned to hear.

#### **Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Jesus wanted them to hear the Word – before they saw the Word ... The physical Jesus was hidden, - so that the Living Word could be unveiled through His voice, - through Scripture, - through Spirit ... Their ears had to catch – what their eyes had missed – because faith is born not in seeing – but in hearing.

#### **Spiritual Nugget: Faith Is Awakened by the Spoken Word**

Faith is not the product of visual proof – it is the result of a spoken revelation ... True faith comes when a living spirit – releases a living word – into a listening heart ... And we have tragically downplayed the power of the Rhema Word – the Word that is spoken by the Spirit, - in the Spirit, - to the spirit.

#### **Romans 10:14 (NKJV)**

How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? ... And how shall they hear without a preacher?

That's why we are sent – not to impress with signs, - but to proclaim the Gospel of union ... Jesus kept them from seeing Him physically – so they would learn to recognize Him spiritually – through the Word, - through the voice, - through the fire in their hearts.

### **Spiritual Insight: From Sight to Spirit**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

This was a journey from external dependence to internal awakening ... From walking by what they saw – disappointment, - fear, - crucifixion – to walking by what they heard and felt – the voice of Christ in the Scriptures, - the presence of Christ in their hearts ... Jesus was weaning them off the visible, - and drawing them into a life – where spiritual perception – becomes the foundation ... Faith isn't natural information – it's supernatural impartation ... God was not giving them facts – He was giving them revelation.

### **Practical Insight: Don't Trust the Surface**

This is the word for us today ... Don't trust your natural sight ... Don't interpret your life through your emotional reactions - or intellectual deductions ... Trust instead the burning within your spirit, - the whisper of divine Presence in your heart.

#### **Hebrews 13:2 (NLT)**

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, - for some who have done this - have entertained angels without realizing it!

Jesus often cloaks Himself in the ordinary – walking beside you in the form of a stranger, - a scripture, - a quiet moment ... If you're only looking for Him in the spectacular – you'll miss the sacred – hidden in the mundane.

## **Mystical Insight: Spirit Over Flesh**

The spiritual cloaks itself in the natural – to train us – to teach us – that we are no longer mere natural beings – reacting to circumstances ... We are new creations, - called to walk by the Spirit ... The old man depends on sight and logic ... The new man walks by Fire and Word ... You were resurrected with Christ – not just to live – but to perceive differently – to see through the eyes of our spirit, - and to hear the voice that speaks beyond the veil.

## **Why Did Their Eyes Open When He Broke the Bread?**

**Verse 30-31** ... “When He was at the table with them, - He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them ... Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him...”

## **Mystical Insight: The Bread as Revelation**

In this sacred moment, - Jesus does not reveal Himself through argument, - logic, - or dramatic appearance – but through a gesture that echoes through eternity: the breaking of bread ... This was not just a recollection of a past supper, - but a manifestation of eternal reality, - breaking into time - and collapsing the veil - between the natural and the supernatural ... Catch this: The breaking of the bread was a prophetic act – a re-enactment of the tearing of the veil ... Just as the veil of the temple was rent in two at His death, - the veil over their spiritual perception was torn – when He broke the bread ... Why? ... Because the breaking of the bread – is the breaking open of Christ Himself – His body, - His life, - His mystery.

## **The Rhythm of Redemption**

“He took, - He blessed, - He broke, - and He gave.” ... This is more than a meal – it is the divine rhythm of redemption ... It is the pattern of Christ’s self-offering to humanity ... And in this act, - we are not just watching Jesus – we are participating in Him ... The table becomes an altar ... The meal becomes a sacrament ... The moment becomes a portal.

## **Mystical Participation: More Than Recognition**

Their eyes were not opened because of something magical in the bread – but because of the mystical convergence that happened in that moment: Memory (they remembered Him), - - Presence (He was with them), - - and Spirit (He was revealed in them) ... This wasn't about seeing with the mind ... This was about knowing in the spirit ... The One who had been broken on the Cross - was now breaking their bread – and suddenly, - they recognized Him ... But this recognition wasn't a mental connection – it was spiritual communion ... They weren't just spectators – they were participants in the eternal Christ ... True vision is not given through observation, - but through union ... And the moment they recognized Him – not by His face, - but by His presence – He vanished from their sight ... As if to say, - now that you see Me by the Spirit, - you no longer need to see Me in the flesh.

### **Revelatory Nugget: Presence Over Appearance**

He did not stay in visible form because He was shifting their perception from flesh to Spirit, - - from external encounter – to internal indwelling ... Christ was showing them – and us – that the true knowledge of Him – is not found in form, - but in fellowship, - - not in evidence, - but in essence ... He gave them bread – and in that gift, - He gave them Himself ... He broke the bread – and in the breaking, - broke open their sight ... He disappeared from view – so He could dwell in them.

### **Why Did Their Hearts Burn When He Opened the Scriptures?**

**Verse 32** ... “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

### **Spiritual Insight: The Fire of Recognition**

Now catch this – though their eyes were blind to His form, - their spirits recognized His voice ... Jesus had said, “My sheep hear My voice...” – and even before their minds could grasp it, - their inner man was bearing witness to the One walking beside them ... This wasn't just a Bible study on the road to Emmaus ... No – this was the Living Word – unveiling the written Word, - glory pouring out from every line – as Author met page – and Spirit met soul ... The Word was walking with them, - interpreting the Word, - releasing fire from the scroll of eternity.

**John 1:14 (NKJV) tells us ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory ...** They didn't just hear Scriptures – they beheld Glory ... They weren't receiving information – they were receiving impartation.

### **Mystical Flame: Spirit Over Emotion**

What they felt was not sentiment ... What they experienced wasn't a mere emotional response ... It was the fire of the Spirit of Truth, - awakening the deep places of their being ... This burning was holy combustion – the same fire that would soon fall at Pentecost was already flickering in their hearts ... The Logos became Rhema ... The letter caught flame ... The veil was lifted ... And divine communion ignited within them.

### **Revelatory Nugget: When the Word Burns**

Let me ask you - - when was the last time your heart burned? ... I'm not talking about a goosebump in worship or a tear during a sermon ... I'm talking about that unshakable fire, - that inner witness that says: "This is real." ... "He is alive." ... "He is here!" ... The same Jesus who walked that dusty road is still walking, - - Still unveiling the Word, - - Still kindling hearts, - - Still revealing Himself in the mystery of communion and the fire of revelation.

### **Mystical Reality: The Fire Confirms His Presence**

That holy burning in their hearts was the Spirit saying, - - "This is Him ... This is Truth ... This is Life." ... It was the internal flame that precedes the external manifestation ... Before Jesus broke the bread, - He broke open their spirits through the Word ... Before He opened their eyes, - He lit the fire in their hearts ... And that is the progression of revelation: First the burning, - then the seeing ... First the voice, - then the vision.

### **Conclusion: "From Burning Hearts to Opened Eyes"**

The Emmaus Road was not just a historical journey – but it is a spiritual path, - one we all must walk ... It is the path from confusion to communion – from disappointment to divine disclosure ... And make no mistake – Christ is still walking hidden beside every spiritual traveler ... He is

still speaking through Scripture – still revealing Himself in the breaking of bread – still igniting hearts with a fire – that is not of this world ... The disciples' eyes were opened at the table because the table is where Heaven touches Earth – where the seen gives way to the unseen – and the Word becomes flesh again – not in theory – but in shared Presence ... In the mystery of that meal, - time folded ... The cross was present ... The resurrection was pulsing ... The kingdom was near ... Their hearts had already begun to burn – but now their eyes were opened to the One who had been with them all along ... And the moment they recognized Him – He disappeared, because the veil had shifted from flesh to spirit ... He vanished, - not to leave them, - but to abide in them.

That's His invitation for us today ... Not to behold Him with natural sight, - but to know Him by the Spirit ... Not to search for Him in the spectacular – but to find Him in the still-burning Word – in the breaking of our own heart – in the sacred hush of communion ... Beloved – this is the Emmaus call ... Let the Rhema Word set you ablaze ... Let the breaking of the bread become your unveiling ... Let your soul recognize Him not only when He speaks, but when He gives Himself ... And when you truly see Him – not outwardly, but inwardly – you'll no longer be content to walk in silence or stay in hiding ... Because burning hearts don't rest – they witness to the truth of His word ... So may your eyes be opened ... May your heart be set ablaze ... And may you carry the fire of the Risen One to a world – that is still walking in the shadows of darkness – until they too see, and burn, and rise.

### **Closing Prayer: “Open Our Eyes, Set Our Hearts Ablaze”**

Lord – You walk beside us even when we do not see You ... You speak to our hearts even when we are slow to hear ... I ask that You would open the eyes of our spirit ... I pray Your Rehema word would burn within us ... Creating a holy fire that would consume every doubt – fear – and unbelief that resides in our heart ... Breath upon the embers of our heart that this world has dampened ... May the Breath of Your Spirit set our hearts aflame once again – that we may come back to our first love ... Lord – teach us to walk in the fullness of the Spirit ... To live from communion and to carry the Your flame ... May Your resurrection fire consume us –

refine us – and transform us into Your image ... Lord – we love – worship – and praise Your  
holy name ... May we be aware of Your divine presence all the days of our life - Amen