

## Our Journey -- The Season of Formation

### Romans 8:29 -- Mirror Translation

For those He foreknew -- He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son.

Continuing Our Ascent -- The Awakening

May 18, 2026

Sermon Title -- Something Was Burning

Text -- Luke 24:13-35

### **Introduction**

I want to begin this morning – by asking a question ... Have you ever felt something stirring on the inside – and you had no idea what it actually was? ... I'm talking about something more than simply an emotion ... Something that was so much deeper – you can't put it into words ... Most people have felt what I am talking about – but they just can't articulate what it is ... And because they can't express it – they will either dismiss it or simply let it fade away ... That sensation – that burning has a name – you just don't know it yet ... And this morning I am going to tell you what that name is.

As we begin our ascension – our journey back up the mountain of formation ... The next leg isn't about more collisions – although we may experience some ... It isn't about more hard truths – although we may hear some ... This leg begins a new facet of the journey ... It is the beginning of awakening ... Here – Luke gives us one of the most pointed pictures of what an awakening experience actually looks like ... On an old dusty road outside of Jerusalem – in the company of two men who had absolutely no idea – what was happening around them – nor inside of them.

**Awakening begins with a Deep internal Burning**

## **Luke 24:32 -- The Passion Translation**

And they said to each other -- "Didn't our hearts burn with the flames of holy passion - while He unveiled the Scriptures to us?"

I want you to notice something very significant ... When their eyes were finally opened and they recognized Jesus – He vanished ... Their immediate response was to look back at everything that had happened on that road – and suddenly realize that something had been happening on the inside – during their entire walk together ... The burning wasn't something new ... It had been there throughout the entire conversation ... The issue was – they didn't have the awareness to recognize it for what it was.

So let me share with you – the simplest definition of awakening I know ... Awakening is that interior burning ... That deep stirring that rises from the depths of your soul ... That moment when something comes alive – on the inside of you – that has no mental category to fit into ... It simply happens from the inside out ... Most people have felt this burning at some point in their journey ... It occurred in a moment of prayer – in the middle of reading Scripture – or in just a quiet moment of driving your car ... It is when you have that – Ah-Ha moment and may even think – How did I never see that before?

That Ah-Ha moment is awesome when it happens ... But let me caution you that your mind and even your emotions will try to talk you out of that moment ... Worst of all – our religious training / education / ideology will begin to flood our mind and heart with fear and confusion.

## **The Collision Created the Illusion of Separation**

### **Luke 24:17-21 -- The Passion Translation**

He said to them -- "You seem to be in a deep discussion about something. What are you talking about?" They stopped, and with sad, disappointed faces one of them, who was named Cleopas, said to him -- "Haven't you heard the news? ... We were hoping that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

Now I want you to feel what these two men were actually carrying on that road ... They were genuine followers of Jesus ... They had walked with Him – sat under His teaching – witnessed His ministry firsthand ... Now they were walking away from Jerusalem devastated – because from where they stood – it was completely over ... The collision of the crucifixion had produced in them a devastating sense of separation ... They concluded He was gone – that the connection they had was severed – that everything they had hoped for – had ended ... That conclusion is what blinded them to the Presence – as He was walking right beside them.

This is one of the most subtle and destructive hindrances to awakening ... A collision happens that is so intense – it shakes you to your core ... Instead of pressing in deeper into your union with Him – you allow the flesh to take over with all the related thoughts and emotions ... This fleshly response with all its related behavior drives you to the same conclusions these two men experienced ... You are alone ... God is no longer nearby ... Even though you may know – God is always with you – your head and heart is yelling He simply isn't.

Let me remind you – collisions are designed by God to drive your focus inward – towards Him so He can awaken you to a valuable kingdom truth ... And when you do turn inward – you will sense that burning – that stirring – and if you listen closely – that still small voice ... Separation is always an illusion – caused by the chaos – the fear – the stink-in think-in of a worldly formed ego

### **Awakening will Always Break Through if You Stay in the Tension**

#### **Luke 24:29-31 -- The Passion Translation**

But they urged him to stay with them, saying -- "Stay with us, since it's almost evening and the day is fading." So, he went with them into the village to spend the night. And when they were at the table together, he lifted the bread and blessed it and broke it, then gave it to them. All at once their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

Notice what these two men did in the middle of their grief and confusion ... They didn't run from the tension ... They didn't numb themselves to it ... They didn't allow the devastation of the collision to have the final say ... Instead – they stopped – they pressed into it – and they extended an invitation ... Look at how they pressed in – they sat down at a table – the place of fellowship – and they created space for something deeper than their natural circumstances to speak ... Honestly – they probably had no idea what was about to happen next ... But what they did opened the door for the kingdom to open their eyes to something greater than either their minds or hearts could conceive.

Here we find the most profound principle of awakening in all Scripture ... An awakening so amazing it radically changed these two men ... Catch this – awakening will always occur as long as you sit in the tension – and make time to fellowship with the One Who you are in constant union with ... If you will honestly learn that the tension of the collision is to be pressed into – and not run away from ... You will find you will be having awakening moments on a regular basis.

### **Takeaway**

So – this week – I want to encourage you to find some time to fellowship with Jesus ... Invite Him in – sit around the table of fellowship – and have a chat ... And as you do – begin to learn to sense those inner feelings ... Begin to recognize those ah-ha moments until they become a regular part of your day ... And I promise – if you make this a regular practice – your eyes will be opened and you will see and understand things you never thought possible.