

**Sermon Series: "At the Foot of the Cross"—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN – 3/30/2008**

**Title: "Easter Heartburn"**

**Text: "They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24 32 (vss. 13-35)**

**Intro.:** *Ills.: Alexander Hague: "I'm in control"*

**Theme:** The miraculous reality of Jesus' Easter resurrection brings us to the spiritual crossroad either to live as if we believe the Resurrection truth or to live in the desperate but inadequate effort to be the master of our own fate.

### ***Symptoms of Spiritual Heartburn***

- **Clueless** to what you have in Jesus (**Print vs. 13-16**)
  1. Grasping at any and every spiritual opinion that comes around the corner
    - a. The disciples were "*consorting in their conversation*" (pooling their ignorance)
    - b. Why do you and I look for the living among the dead? (Our hope is not in the wisdom of the world)
    - c. *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 1 Cor 1: 21*
  2. Eyes to see but yet you don't see
    - a. **Ills.: Blind to what's in front of you**
    - b. *In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear." Matt 13: 14-16*
- **Overwhelmed** by the moment (**Print vss. 17-18**)
  1. Sadness that overwhelms with worldly grief
    - a. *Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant . . .or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 1 Thes 4:13*
  2. Worldly grief which leads to sarcastic cynicism (vs. 18)
- **Exchanging** head knowledge for heart knowledge (**Print vss. 19-24**)
  1. The Emaus disciples had all the facts about Jesus but were missing the hope of Jesus
    - a. Only saw Jesus as a powerful man and teacher not as the Son of God --- so couldn't believe he could do it
    - b. Had all the right religious jargon (*redeem Israel*)
    - c. But missed the miracle of the resurrection and so were missing the hope (vs.21)
  2. Who do you say that Jesus is? (Matthew 16: 15)
    - a. *"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible. Acts 10:38-40*
    - b. Do you believe this?

### ***Responding rather than reacting to your spiritual heartburn***

- **Open your heart** and let Jesus in to "abide" forever (**Print vss. 28-29**)
  1. The Emaus disciples knew there was something strangely wonderful/peaceful and so invited Jesus to stay with them
  2. *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. John 14:23*
  3. This is more than a casual relationship with Him --- it is a life-transforming pivotal moment
- **Open your eyes** to see the living proof set before you (**Print vss. 30-32**)
  1. What spiritual scales does Jesus need to remove from your eyes so that you can see?

2. Meet him in the "breaking of the bread"
  3. Search him out in the Scriptures to discover his life and power
    - a. Expect "heartburn" when you do and then make up your mind to do something about it
    - b. *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*
    - c. **Ills.: When Jesus shows up**
- **Open your mouths** to let your Easter heartburn out (**Print vss. 33-35**)
    1. The Emaus disciples went back to let the eleven and the woman to share their witness (**HIS story + MY story**)
    2. Not content until you have infected everyone else around you with your Easter heartburn

### **"I'm in control, here."**

In 1981, after the March 30 assassination attempt on Reagan by John Hinckley, Secretary of State Alexander Haig asserted before reporters "I'm in control here" as a result of Reagan's hospitalization. Rather than being seen as an attempt to allay the nation's fear, the quotation became seen as an attempt by Haig to exceed his authority. Haig was incorrect in his interpretation of the U.S. Constitution concerning both the presidential line of succession and the 25th Amendment, which dictates what happens when a president is incapacitated. But the holders of the two offices between the Vice President and the Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House (at the time, Tip O'Neill) and the President pro tempore of the Senate (at the time, J. Strom Thurmond), would be required under U.S. law (3 U.S.C. 19) to resign their positions in order for either of them to become acting President. This was an unlikely event considering that Vice-President Bush was merely not immediately available. Haig's statement therefore reflected political reality, if not necessarily legal reality. Haig later said, I wasn't talking about transition. I was talking about the executive branch, who is running the government. That was the question asked. It was not, 'Who is in line should the President die?' **All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See Copyrights for details.) Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity**

### **Blind To What's In Front of You**

Karl Barth, the famous theologian, was on a streetcar one day in Basel, Switzerland, where he lectured. A tourist to the city climbed on and sat down next to Barth. The two men started chatting with each other. "Are you new to the city?" Barth inquired. "Yes," said the tourist. "Is there anything you would particularly like to see in this city?" asked Barth. "Yes," he said, "I'd love to meet the famous theologian Karl Barth. Do you know him?" Barth replied, "Well as a matter of fact, I do. I give him a shave every morning." The tourist got off the streetcar quite delighted. He went back to his hotel saying to himself, "I met Karl Barth's barber today." **John Ross, Surrey, England, Leadership, Vol. 8, no. 4.**

### **When Jesus Shows Up**

Any of us more than 25 years old can probably remember where we were when we first heard of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963. British novelist David Lodge, in the introduction to one of his books, tells where he was--in a theater watching the performance of a satirical revue he had helped write. In one sketch, a character demonstrated his nonchalance in an interview by holding a transistor radio to his ear. The actor playing the part always tuned into a real broadcast. Suddenly came the announcement the President Kennedy had been shot. The actor quickly switched it off, but it was too late. Reality had interrupted stage comedy. For many believers, worship, prayer, and Scripture are a nonchalant charade. They don't expect anything significant to happen, but suddenly God's reality breaks through, and they're shocked. **Brian Powley, Ipswich, England. Leadership, Vol. 5, no. 4.**

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup>And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

<sup>17</sup>And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" <sup>19</sup>And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. <sup>21</sup>"But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>"But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. <sup>24</sup>"Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup>And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>"Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>***They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"*** <sup>33</sup>And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, <sup>34</sup>saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.