

THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – EASTER SUNDAY A.D .33

TEXT: Luke 24:13-35

THESIS: To show how Christ revealed Himself to two of His Disciples after His resurrection.

INTRO.: A. It is no surprise that Satan has attacked the doctrine of Christ's resurrection. It is the very crux of our faith. ***"If Christ be not risen, we are yet in our sins."*** The first lie was that His disciples stole His body. But the tomb was carefully guarded by Roman soldiers. The Apostles were so frightened, they were in hiding, and could not have overpowered them anyway. Even worse, the Apostles themselves did not believe He would be resurrected!

B. The second lie was that Jesus didn't really die on the cross, but just swooned and when He was placed into the cool tomb, he revived. But Pilate carefully checked with the Centurion to see whether Jesus was dead, and the soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves but confirmed that Jesus had indeed died. Besides, how could a "cool tomb" transform Christ's body so that He could appear and disappear and walk into locked rooms?!

C. So Luke closes His Gospel with reports of Christ's post-resurrection appearances. Out of the five Easter Sunday appearances of Christ (to Mary Magdalene, to the women, to Peter, and that night to the eleven, we want to focus on His **"First Sunday School Class – Easter Sunday A.D. 33"** to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus...

I. THE SADDENED PUPILS: V.13,14

A. Two Discouraged Disciples:

1. One of them is named Cleopas, the other is not identified; some think it was Luke himself, but perhaps it was Cleopas' wife.
2. The reasons for their discouragement are given:
 - a. Their own religious leaders had Christ crucified. V.20
 - b. They thought that He would lead them into His Kingdom on earth – they believed the Scriptures concerning His glory, but not His sufferings. V.21
 - c. They had heard reports of His resurrection, but couldn't believe them – in spite of the 36 miracles He had performed confirming His claims. v.22,23
 - d. They believed the reports of those who saw the empty tomb, but didn't see Him. V.24
 - e. Their hopes had been nailed to His cross and buried in His tomb.

II. THE INSIGHTFUL TEACHER:

A. The Resurrected Savior: ***"Jesus Himself drew near & went with them..." v.15***

1. Like Mary Magdalene in the garden whose eyes were so clouded with tears, these two disciples couldn't see Christ through their sorrow and discouragement.

2. Somehow, **"their eyes were holden that they should not know Him..."** – i.e., He was the same, but somehow different now – He was in a glorified body! V.16
3. He listened to their complaints with compassion and showed interest in their dilemma. V.17
 - a. His teaching method begins with the common Jewish practice of asking questions .
 - b. He begins by asking **"What things?"**

ILLUS.: This is His method of drawing them out to reveal their ignorance of the Scriptures and of His own promises regarding His resurrection. He was all too familiar with **"what things"** – He was the central character in the events of His arrest, mock trials, Peter's denial, scourging, humiliation, and crucifixion!

4. After hearing their list of woes, He issues a mild rebuke: **"O fools and slow of heart to believe..."** the Book! V.25a (*Their problem was both in their hearts and heads!*)

III. THE SPECIAL TEXT BOOK:

A. The Old Testament:

1. First he reminds them of what their own **"prophets"** had to say about Him! V.25b
2. Then, he proceeds to expound what **Moses** (the great Prophet!), and all the other **"prophets"** prophesied concerning Himself *"in all the Scriptures."* V.26

ILLUS.: Note the emphasis Jesus places on His Word. Here it is ***"Moses and the prophets."*** That is a good portion of the O.T. Later that evening He appears to the 10 Apostles (Judas is dead, and Thomas is not present) and there He expands His teaching to include the entire O.T. ***"...in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets and in the Psalms..."*** Jesus here places His "imprimatur" or His recognition and approval upon the three divisions of Jewish Scripture!

Whew! What a S.S. class this must have been. Perhaps he started in Genesis 3:15 with the first promise of a Redeemer, or even before that right after Adam & Eve sinned and He provided coats of skin to cover their sin. No doubt He lingered long at Gen. 22 where Abraham places his only beloved son on the altar. Surely He spoke in detail of the Passover, the Levitical sacrifices, the tabernacle, the ceremonies, the High Priest, the Day of Atonement, the Suffering Servant in Is. 53, and the graphic portrayal of the crucifixion in Ps. 22, and the Shepherd in Ps. 23, and on and on...

3. Jesus had opened the tomb and came forth alive again.
4. Jesus now opens the Scriptures concerning Himself.
5. Jesus next opens the disciple's eyes! (Opened eyes follow the opened Scriptures)

IV. THE AMAZING RESULTS:

A. Closed Eyes Are Opened: v.28-31

1. First He "pretends" to leave them. v.28
2. They "beg" Him to stay with them. v.29

ILLUS.: Though in His resurrected body now, Jesus still portrays His humanity. How many of us have done the same thing when visiting unannounced and asked to stay and have something to eat. We pretend we really don't want to, but finally give in.

3. When *"He took bread and blessed it...their eyes were opened and they knew Him."*

NOTE: Could it be that when they saw His nail pierced hands breaking the bread that suddenly it dawned on them Who this was?! Note that immediately **"He vanished out of their sight!"** This surely confirmed that it was the resurrected Savior! The fact that He left them did not mean that He abandoned them. He was with them even though they couldn't see Him and He would soon indwell them in the Person of His Holy Spirit!

B. Cold Hearts Now Burn: v.32

1. His presence coupled with the Scriptures caused their hearts to warm!
2. They had apparently begun to recognize that this was not just another stranger before He revealed Himself to them. *"...while He talked with us by the way...?"*
3. He not only brought Divine light to them, but Divine heat as well!

C. Discouraged Lives Now Rejoice: v.33,34

1. They had seen the resurrected Savior and are overjoyed!
2. They began to search for their friends to share the wonderful news.

D. Complaining Lips Become Witnessing Lips: v.35

1. He had not only opened their understanding, and opened their eyes, He had opened their mouths!
2. These four amazing results should be true of every disciple!

CONCL.: This then was **"THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – EASTER SUNDAY A.D. 33!** And what a class it was! What a teacher! What a textbook! What a Savior!!!

Have you received the resurrected Savior...or are your eyes still blinded as were the eyes of these two disciples?