

On the Road to Emmaus – Zoom service 26th April

Welcome:

Welcome to our third Zoom service.

- Again, we are blessed that we can meet together in this way
- That we can still enjoy fellowship despite the difficult circumstances.
- We can be thankful for our blessings
- We have so much more than many people.
- Let's begin with a prayer.

Prayer:

Father God thank you that you are our father and we know you love us. Help us to trust you in all circumstances. Help us to praise you for you are an awesome, wonderful God. You have already done so much more for us than any of us deserve. Yet your love never gives up on us.

Thank you for the fellowship we can enjoy through social media. That we have food to eat and homes to live in.

Thank you for our NHS and those who are working to care and provide for us during this crisis.

We pray for those who are not coping with lockdown. Give us wisdom to support them For those who do not have our benefits and cannot feed themselves or their family during this time. We pray especially for those in countries where they are denied support because of their love for you. Lord we do not know how we can help them, and we ask they will know you and know your provision for them

We ask you to give us strength to serve you and bring your peace to all situations. Help us to honour you in all we do.

In the name of your precious son, Jesus
Amen

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who

was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Sermon

In this period between Resurrection and Ascension

- I thought it would be good to look at some of the things Jesus did during this time
- Starting with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- I think this is a wonderful part of the story
- We can imagine it happening
- These two broken hearted men trudging along the road
- Meeting this stranger and pouring out their hurt and disappointment
- The unknown Jesus opening the bible to them
- Explaining all truths about himself
- And then, in great finale, revealing himself to them in the breaking of bread.

At times we must all wonder what it would have been like to be there.

- To have met Jesus in the flesh
- To have experienced His miracles or teaching.
- And I think if I could choose one moment to go back to
- This journey would be on my list.
- Imagine Jesus explaining the scriptures to us.
- Opening our eyes to all the glorious truths
- I can imagine why they would have said
"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (vs. 32)

I wonder what He would have said

- It must have taken a couple of hours to walk 7 miles.
- Unfortunately, we only have 40 minutes.
- But I just wanted to speculate on some of the things he might have told them.

The Word

Did he tell them he was there at creation?

- When God spoke the universe into being
- He was the word.
- The word who was with God and who was God
- That *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”* (John 1:1-3)

Satan’s Destroyer

Did he tell them how he was promised to Adam and Eve?

- In the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had disobeyed God
- Along with the curse came a promise
- When God told the Devil
- *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

John tells us in 1 John 3:8

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

This what Paul alluded to in the passage we read last week

- 1 Corinthians 15, verse 21 -22, 25
- *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²⁵ “For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet”*

Sacrifice

Surely, he must have spoken of those scriptures that told of his death and sacrifice

- How He is God’s son sacrificed for the sins of the world
- Just as Abraham offered Isaac so, God would offer his son as a sacrifice
- Genesis 22:16

“I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

He is the suffering servant prophesied about by Isaiah (Isaiah 53)

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² *He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.*

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ *He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.*

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

⁷ *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

⁸ *By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

⁹ *He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

¹⁰ *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong
his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

¹¹ *After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

¹² *Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the
strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

He must have talked about how he was the sacrificial lamb.

- Prophetically alluded to by Abel's offering
*"By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was
 commended as righteous when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still
 speaks, even though he is dead".* (Hebrew 11:4)

He is foretold by the Passover lamb,

- The whole Exodus story being a picture of our journey of faith
- We are set free from slavery to sin in the world (typified by Egypt)
- By the blood of the Passover lamb
- We begin our journey through the waters of baptism (the Red Sea)
- Led by God through the wilderness of this life
- Learning to trust Him and become his people
- Till we pass through death (Crossing the Jordan)
- And are brought safe to the promised land (Heaven)
- Not by Moses,
- He could not enter the promised land because he represents the law
- And we cannot be saved by obedience to the law
- But by Joshua whose name means 'God is Salvation'

Salvation

Joshua is, of course the Hebrew version of the name Jesus

- It is the name Joseph was told to give him by the angel
- *An angel of the Lord appeared to him (Joseph) in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:20-21)

As the Israelites wandered the wilderness, they were plagued by snakes

- In Numbers 2: 8. The Lord tells Moses,
"Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."
- Jesus said (John 3:14-15)
Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Water and Bread of Life

Did Jesus go on to say how he was pictured by the manna and water provided in the desert?

- How when Moses struck the rock, God caused water to flow. (Number 17:5-7)
- Did he remind them that he had said?
- *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (John 4:13-14)
- How he had argued with the Pharisees about the Manna Moses provided, saying?
"It is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
³⁵ *Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*
⁵¹ *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*
(John 6:32-33, 35, 51)

Paul tells us the same thing in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 10:1-4).

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Risen Lord

Did Jesus explain how the Messiah must die and be raised again

- As we have already read in Isaiah 53:11
- *"After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied"*

He is typified by Jonah who spent three days in the belly of the whale

- Before bringing Gods message to Nineveh
- By Joseph, who was figuratively killed by his family
- And was brought back to life to save them from famine
- But not just them but also to save Egypt
- Jesus came for the gentiles as well as the chosen people
- For the world as well as Christians

Prophet.

Did Jesus tell them he was the prophet foretold by Moses?

- Moses says in Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name."

Great High Priest

Did Jesus tell them he came to be our high priest

- To be a mediator between God and Mankind.
- A high priest appointed by God
- As prophesied by David in Psalm 110. (vs. 4)

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Melchizedek was a priest who met and blessed Abraham

- We read in Genesis 14:18

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High

- The writer to the Hebrews explains the story (Hebrews 7:1-3)

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

- And continuing from verse 24

Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ *Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.* ²⁷ *Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.* ²⁸ *For the law appoints as high priests, men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

And again, in Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

We are familiar with the curtain in the temple being torn in two when Jesus died

- The curtain separated us from God
- And only the High Priest was allowed to enter on our behalf.
- The curtain was made of blue, red and purple thread
- Blue for heaven, Red for earth and purple as the perfect blend of the two
- Jesus who was both man and God

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

I am sure he talked about the Messiah being the king

- Descended from David of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- About the rock that formed an everlasting kingdom In Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2: 24-45)
- As the Scapegoat for our sins, (Leviticus 16:7-9)
- As a bridegroom (Song of Songs and Hosea)

Conclusion

I could go on.

- There is always more to learn and discover about Jesus
- But even the journey to Emmaus ended
- And the disciples invited Jesus in.
- As we read in verses 30-32

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Hearing all these truths the disciples on the road felt their hearts burning

- But they did not recognise Him until he was invited in and sat to eat with them
- Is this the same for us?
- We can learn much about Jesus
- But we also have to invite Him in and come to know Him
- Come to trust Him.

As we mentioned earlier

- When the people of Israel were in the desert, they grumbled
- They complained they had been brought into the desert
- So, at the Lord's command Moses struck the rock and water came out
⁷ *And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7)*

And it is the answer to this question that I want to finish with

- As prophesied by Isaiah (7:14)
- And fulfilled in Matthew 1:23
"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").
- Jesus is 'God with us'

God who meets us on the road, walks beside us and breaks bread with us.

- Our high priest meeting us with Bread and wine
- Our "king of righteousness" and our "king of peace."
- Amen.

Prayer: (From Ephesians 3:16-21)

¹⁶ *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

²⁰ *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*