

Burning Hearts

Luke 24:13-32 Burning Hearts

- Reading this 2,000 after the fact creates a bittersweet point of view.
- Try to remember the best lesson or class you've ever experienced. Now imagine listening to Jesus as He revealed Himself through the scriptures. Now go further - we don't worship the word. We worship the Word made flesh. They didn't know it at the time, but they were in the presence of Jesus. I'm happy for them but sad for myself. One day . . .
- Having said that, it brings me comfort because Jesus was pointing them to a great source. Jesus wasn't going to stay. He left the word of the Spirit with us all. He left us the word of God.
 - This week proved to be another daunting task. Encourage brethren to look at the Bible differently. I say differently because it's common not to view it correctly initially. It's not a book of rules. Many are offended at the description of it being a "love letter." I understand why. It contains severe and tragic accounts. It speaks not only of God's love but also His jealousy, regret, and frustration. Yet, as John wrote, "God is love." It is the overarching theme of God. A Father who loses His son and seeks to redeem him. The word of God is alive and active because the words are trustworthy and lead to salvation and life. If Jesus is the way and the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him . . . then you might want to know Jesus. How do you know about Jesus without the word? To be blunt, it's beyond foolish to ignore the word. Ignoring the word is to ignore Jesus. Ignoring the word is to reject love, holiness, salvation, and truth. That's not something I'd want to ignore.
 - My earthly father is no longer with us, but I'd like to share one of the greatest treasures in my life. It was a letter he wrote for me. I was giving a lesson (only my second time to preach), and he wanted to support me, but he felt sick that morning. So, he typed a short letter and gave it to David so I could read it before I preached. I won't read the whole thing, but after expressing his desire to be with me, he wrote:
 - *You're about to move apart of the world closer to God, Shawn. Many brethren, who had been plagued by worry, are about to hear the good news concerning the ability to rest in the Lord. Couples who had previously been fighting over finances and other trivial matters will, for the first time, hear about other riches and a greater city than this earth knows. My spirit, thoughts and encouragement will stand alongside of you as you share this part of God's Word with your brethren. Just look down that aisle toward the back and you'll see my chariot (with the brakes on) facing you in complete support. You need no other encouragement than that which Paul gave to Timothy: PREACH THE WORD. So, I charge you to fulfill your ministry today. I love you with all my heart, Dad*
 - *Let me ask you a question. How many times do you think I've read this letter? As you'd imagine . . . I couldn't begin to tell you. I will return to it during times of sorrow, anxiety, confusion, or joy.*
- What makes your heart burn? Why did it make their hearts burn? Because they understood the power of the scripture as it related to life. The death of Jesus was actual. The promise

of Jesus' suffering was real. Therefore, the Scriptures were alive and active. It brought them hope in a moment of disappointment and confusion. It was needed. It was healing.

- Having said that I'll ask a few questions:

John 6:66-69 To Whom Shall We God?

- Does Jesus offend you? What offends you?
- Ignoring Jesus or difficult truths isn't the answer.

Psalms 19 What's Sweet To Us?

- You will meditate on what you know.
- You will take a step in the direction you believe is correct.

2 Peter 1:3-11 What Nature Is Molding Us?

- What's our goal? What's this all about?
- Getting old doesn't mean you're seeking and growing spiritually. Do you challenge yourself in the spiritual realm, or do you lean on what you've learned in the physical?
- Nearsighted. You're not looking further out. Will your current abilities, skills, and knowledge in life save you?
- You may be equipped for your role here on earth. Are you equipped for your role in heaven?
- Is heaven your cup of tea? What would be the worst part about hell? Punishment or separation from God?