

[And They Remembered His Words] / Gospel of Luke 24:7 – 53

~ The Gospel of Luke has provided our Spiritual Safari with many Scriptural details that no other Gospel record reveals. Our last report was almost entirely about the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. In this report, the good doctor is going to present even more previously undiscovered facts before we say farewell. Let's remember, this very matter-of-fact man also gave us the songs of Christmas, as well as previously untold parables. Well, our last report left off at the tomb where Jesus had been buried. The women arrived, and the angels reminded them of what Jesus had said and told them long ago - that He wasn't going to be there....

XXIV

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

~ Each of the Gospel writers make it clear that Jesus' mission on earth was to travel through Israel, and then ultimately go up to Jerusalem where the religious rulers and the nation as a whole would reject Him and fabricate a charge against Him, whereby they could sentence Him to die on Barabbas' cross. That pattern is an inescapable Bible fact; along with the self-declaration by Jesus that He would be raised again the third day. Sometimes, things are said to us, but we don't really hear them or process them completely; and sometimes things are shown to us, but we just won't or cannot accept them, even when we know them to be true....

8 And they remembered his words,

9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

~ I would think the apostles would have been excited to hear this news but, apparently, the apostles themselves were the first ones to NOT believe Jesus; even after He had told them time and time again what to expect. So, we see Peter now turning this all over in his mind one time before he can reach a reasonable conclusion. Apparently, John was much more mentally cognizant than Peter was, as John tells us that when he went in and saw that the Lord Jesus was not there, he immediately believed what he had been told. Interestingly, Peter won't come to terms with this until much later....

12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

~ And with this final turn, our Spiritual Safari lands on the road to Emmaus. We hear so much about the Jericho road, but that's where we will fall among thieves. The Emmaus road is where we will meet the resurrected Christ. So, we're going to take the Emmaus road right on out of Luke's Gospel account and back into the Old Testament Book of Numbers in our next report. There has been a lot of speculation about how far sixty furlongs is – maybe half a mile is a good guess? Maybe it's more than that? I'll leave that to the furlong experts, and we'll say it was ten spiritual miles in our safari - so we can be safe and exact....

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

~ Cleopas opens a side light that we'll not see elsewhere in the entire Scriptures. We see the apostles walking and talking about the resurrection and, quite frankly, they didn't believe any of it. Here comes this stranger they do not recognize, and they never thought for one moment this could be the resurrected Christ. Well, the apostles know that the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus have stirred Jerusalem up pretty well. The apostles just can't believe there's someone in the area who didn't know about what had happened. Paul said these things were not done in a corner. The crucifixion of Christ was common knowledge in that day, and anyone traveling within three days journey would have heard all about the crucifixion of an innocent man by Rome in Israel - and all of the things that happened at the Passover....

19 So he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

~ See, the apostles said Jesus "was" a prophet. They thought He was dead and gone, friends. They said they had hoped and trusted that it 'had been' Him that was the one. Their attitude is: it's all too late now because He has been crucified and - the end. Make no mistake; the faith of these men is completely non-existent. All they have right now is a witness to the death of Jesus at the foot of the cross – NOT a witness for resurrection! What we have here is a picture of abject unbelief by the apostles in the resurrection

of Christ at this particular time; and this may be the single most precious piece of wisdom available in Holy Writ, my beloved safari readers....

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

~ The dim hope they had in their understanding of a tiny ray of light was dashed when they said they saw Him not. I guess they expected to see Him sitting in a corner of the tomb, waving and bragging about beating Pilate at his own game. Interestingly, they were not at all prepared to explain what had happened to the body or where it was; and they didn't seem too interested in investigating further, either. Perhaps they were still afraid for their lives. I wonder if it was even important to them at this time, though. I doubt it was. No one had seen Him and that was a fact they simply couldn't get around. What they did know is that something had happened....

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

~ We come to an extremely critical truth to grasp as we move out to other books of the Bible, my dear readers. As Jesus talks to His apostles, He did NOT show them the nail marks in His hands to prove the resurrection had happened. What He did was refer them to Scripture. They could have believed the prophets. They SHOULD have believed the prophets. The attitude of Christ towards the Scripture at this time is a note in the music of the Word of God that we shall not hear again very soon. Jesus is thoughtful, considerate, reverent and kind to them in their day of doubt.

The Damoclean sword of doubt hangs over the Word of God today, my friends. Most people seem to feel that one cannot be intelligent and believe the Bible, so they never take a position one way or another. I

suppose they don't want to risk appearing any more ridiculous than they already do. Certainly, the most subtle and satanic error of this present hour is to discount the inerrancy, integrity and sovereignty of the Word of God. God gave a unanimous acceptance of His own teaching when He said a man is a fool not to believe Him; there are no "if's" or "ands." You either believe what God is saying - or you are a fool. Most people have neither the intestinal fortitude nor enough proper understanding to make an effective stand for the Word God in a correct context. I'm sure that's most - if not all of - their problem in life. Further, I completely reject the theory that intellectual difficulties have anything to do with this at all. The only reason any man or woman rejects Christ as their Savior is because there is sin in their life that they refuse to give up. No other reason. None whatsoever....

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

~ The emphasis on the Word of God, prophecy and, most importantly, on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself by Himself, is inescapable in our Scriptural photograph. This is the only snapshot from safari I would really have you take along with you. If this single report is the only picture your mind takes out of this leg in Luke, then I will have closed this book out properly. There are two things that are essential to the understanding of the Word of God. The first is faith in the Bible as the Word of God it claims to be. Human knowledge must be understood to be believed; Spiritual knowledge must be believed to be understood. The Bible is completely closed and locked to the critic and the infidel who denies this is exactly what it says it is - the Word of God. People may gather new facts and realize certain general life principles from the Bible, but their understanding is pitch black unless the Holy Spirit has opened their eyes and ears to hear God.

By contrast, the simple souls that have turned to Jesus in humble faith have received understanding, wisdom and spiritual discernment. I hear many people talk about 'spirituality' – well, friends, - if you don't have Christ, you

are spiritually as dead as a hamburger. Many great, intelligent and successful men have come to the Lord for light in their lives. Myriads turn to God in the dark hour of crisis. The problem is: it's considered smart in today's society to ridicule the Bible; and it's sophisticated to disbelieve it with an out-of-hand dismissal. Well, that takes us right back to square one: and Jesus saith, "you're a fool not to believe it." Most of you know I, Andrew Hunt, lack sophistication, and I totally avoid subtleties – and I say things that others just don't seem to be willing to say. Doing so costs me all professional credibility and any possible recognition but, friends, I would much rather be all of that than a fool.

The truths of the Bible can only be comprehended spiritually by divine understanding. Human intellect cannot grasp the depth and meaning of Holy Writ. Just a few more verses and the Lord Jesus will open their understanding so that they might understand these things. The natural man cannot discern Scripture, because the things of Christ are only spiritually revealed and discerned. My friends, there are some things that are simply above human wisdom and that only the Spirit of God can make real and applicable in our lives. Our prayer should always be, ".... open Thou mine eyes so that I may behold wondrous things from Thy Word."

We need to bring a humble mind to Bible study. Just because you may have read through the Bible a hundred times doesn't mean you know anything about it. Don't kid yourself. If you have doubts, then bring them to the Lord in prayer and the Lord will work them out for you. You can trust me on that. Only the Spirit of God can bring you to the place of complete awareness and realization about your existence and the meaning thereof. If you come to the Bible with a contrite and sincere heart that truly desires to know God and truth in your life, then He will carry you away to that place – as far as you ask to go, by the way! You might want to be careful what level of wisdom you ask for because, as I say, God will take you all the way! You might not like what you see – fair warning – the Bible reveals the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ is now going to reveal Himself to the disciples. Who can attain unto this? ~

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

~ The resurrected, glorified Christ desires fellowship with those who are His own; but He only fellowships with those who believe. It's a wonderful thing to sit around the table of Christ and share the Bread of Life. Jesus talked with the apostles about everything in the Bible and they wanted to stay there for a while. This is a wonderful place. I wish we could stay here longer, too. Well, we see Jesus disappeared from these men at this time. Church dinners and volleyball are fine if the emphasis is on the Word of God. Unfortunately, too many churchy-type programs leave Christ out altogether. There is only a blessing if Jesus is in your midst breaking the bread. If that isn't happening, then you just happen to be wasting your time with the wrong crowd....

32 And they said one to another; Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

~ Verse thirty-four reveals that the Lord Jesus appeared to Simon Peter personally because there were a few things that had to be straightened out between them; and those things were straightened out. Terrified and affrighted would have been your reaction and mine, also, had we been there. Verse thirty-nine makes no mention of the blood because the blood has been shed on the cross. The bottom line is: they just didn't believe His Word. I hope the Spiritual Safari isn't just meaningless nothingness to you. If it is, you likely stopped reading a LONG time ago. The Holy Spirit is the only One Who can make this all real and interesting to you. If the Lord does speak directly to your heart, then this will bless your life....

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God
concludes our commentary on the Gospel record presented by Luke with a world-wide, global outlook. The Gospel is to go to the ends of the earth. Ye are witnesses of these things to the world that Christ has died and rose again; and that, by trusting Him, sinners shall be saved. The promise and the power in verse forty-nine is the Holy Spirit. Our last glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ in this book of the Bible is an attitude of blessing! Blessing is His attitude towards the world today - and also towards you and me. God is not presently judging the church; Christ is our Savior. The Lord Jesus has great blessings for the church to lay hold of - blessings that are available to them right now, immediately; looking for the return of our Blessed Hope – that is the testimony from Luke ~

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