



SONrise
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... **Strengthening the Local Church**

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But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day ... Luke 24:21

What if Jesus had not appeared to Cleopas and the other man on the road to Emmaus?

I can only imagine them returning home sad, disillusioned and defeated to face their families and friends who probably were wondering what their loved ones had gotten themselves into in the first place. Their hopes had been dashed, and now they would have to face the ridicule and shame of following a loser.

The good news is Jesus DID appear to the two men and changed their lives -- and our lives as well. Not only did He confirm their faith, but he also instilled in them the burning desire to tell someone else that the Lord was alive. They **had** to share the good news with their friends right then, even if it meant returning to Jerusalem that night - a perilous venture.

Jesus had opened their understanding of the Scriptures. He had revealed how foolish they had been and how slow of heart to believe what the prophets spoke.

Have your hopes in Jesus been dashed? Are you sad about how the church is conducting itself today? Do you feel defeated and want to give up? **There is good news – Jesus is still alive and well and wants to be part of our everyday lives!** He is not in the tomb. He is not in heaven waiting until the “hereafter” to impart His life to us. He still opens our understanding of the Scriptures. He still confronts our foolishness and unbelief. He is still the only answer for a lost and dying world.

As Jesus does His mighty work in each of us, we will be like Peter and John when they faced the religious authorities of their day. When they were told to be quiet about this Jesus, they said, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20) Each time we hear a word from the Lord or see one of His wondrous works, it is natural for the Holy Spirit inside us to want to speak it abroad to anyone who will listen.

When Jesus gives us something, we are instructed to give it away, and we will receive more. As we give, we not only help someone else experience Jesus, but we receive joy unspeakable.

Cleopas and the other man heard and saw Jesus. They had something to tell about. Our challenge today is to put religion behind us and spend time in relationship with Jesus. We cannot hang around Jesus without changing – for the good. Each time we change, we have something new to tell.

De Colores,
Barry Smith
2007 Community Lay Director