

SERMON NOTES: APRIL 27TH
SCRIPTURE READINGS...II PETER 2: 3-11, LUKE 24: 13-35

ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS... Cleopas/buddy travel to Emmaus, an obscure town 7 miles from Jerusalem. It wasn't the WAY HOME, just the WAY OUT. Where do we go to escape when our best dream has died, and we want to shut the world out? The road to Emmaus is the road to futility. There is no way out of despair except with God's help. Numb, they don't see a STRANGER who approaches them. Like the others, they don't recognize Jesus, mistake him for an uninformed visitor. Where had he been? Hadn't he heard about Good Friday? They start reminiscing about Jesus "a PROPHET, mighty in word/deed" They had a front-row seat to the greatest life ever lived. When Jesus said/did something, they saw his eyes light up like the STARS. They had heard rumors of an Empty Tomb: Jesus walking through CLOSED DOORS but this rumor mill was too much.

PAST TENSE CHRISTIANS...notice their words, "WE HAD HOPED, ONCE THOUGHT HE WAS THE ONE. It is all past tense: they had hoped; now he is gone.

Are we present/past-tense Christians? Past tense Christians focus on WHAT GOD ONCE DID, not WHAT HE IS DOING NOW They put a PERIOD where God only puts a COMMA. They live on MEMORY, not EXPERIENCE.

Jesus calls them "slow of heart" That was too kind. He moves 2 past-tense disciples into the present tense. First, he listens to them. We can't help anyone if we don't listen. He does a bible study. From Moses prophets, he teaches what they already knew but they still don't grasp it. They cannot CONNECT THE DOTS, grasp scripture's deeper meanings. At least they invited Jesus to stay. He won't stay where he is not welcome At a meal, as he broke bread, they recognized him; their eyes were opened and their hearts stirred. Yet his quick departure triggers soul-searching..."**DID NOT OUR HEARTS BURN WITHIN US WHILE HE TALKED**"

OUR BURNING HEARTS...when did our hearts last burn? When did we last get so lost in the joy of the moment that we didn't know what to do? If you say, "TOO LONG TO RECALL" this story is for you. Those who had been SLOW OF HEART became those with HEARTS ON FIRE. It was more than BIBLE STUDY/MEAL; it was a training session, preparation for NEW JOB. They didn't need to escape. Their dreams weren't DEAD, their OPTIONS weren't limited. They went from being VICTIMS TO VICTORS. They'd finally live up to their full potential. It is time to RISE UP, become the people Christ intended us to be. All people end up somewhere; too few end up somewhere on purpose.