

# SERMON REFLECTION

## *Burning Hearts*

Luke 24:13-35 • Sunday, April 21, 2024

### ❖ Discussion Starter

The quest to know all there is to know about Jesus' life has led people on some extreme ventures. Some people travel to the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked in an effort to relate to His life and ministry in the first century. Some people study the Bible and extrabiblical literature to gain a biographical sketch of Jesus' characteristics as the greatest religious leader to ever live. There is much to learn about Jesus' life that enhances the reality of His humanity in this world.

Knowing about Jesus is generally a good thing, but an accumulation of knowledge about His life is not necessarily the source of transformation for our lives. For example, throughout Jesus' ministry the Sanhedrin familiarized themselves with His life and beliefs as much as anyone living in that day. Yet the Pharisees' and Sadducees' lives were not transformed spiritually through their deep study of who Jesus was and what He believed.

### ❖ Scripture Background

The Scriptures reveal a pathway to knowing Jesus in a way that transforms our lives and brings about regeneration of our hearts leading to eternal life. Jesus described this pathway in *Matthew 7:14* when He said, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." The few that found it in Jesus' day were predominantly individuals who were the most sinful people at the time, while the most religious people of that day did not find it.

*Luke 24* describes Jesus' interactions with many people following His resurrection from the dead. His physical appearance had to be ordinary because there was no initial shock when they encountered Him. The shock came when they realized it was Jesus; even more so in the way they discovered it was Jesus. Verses 13-35 highlight the bread as the source of discovery of Jesus.

### ❖ Principles From Scripture

1. God is always at work in the hearts of people drawing them into relationship with Him.  
-John 12:32; 2 Peter 3:9-13; Jeremiah 29:12-13
2. The acknowledgement of our spiritual need gives us hearts that are able to see His grace.  
-Luke 24:32; Matthew 5:3-8

### ❖ Discussion Questions

- Why were the two disciples in the text unable to identify Jesus as they walked with Him?
- What was it about the breaking of the bread that opened their hearts to Jesus' true identity?
- How can we be sure that we know Jesus in the way He wants us to know Him?

### ❖ Applying the Truth

**-Read:** As you read the encounter of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in *Luke 24*, ask yourself how you have come to know Jesus in a personal way.

**-Pray:** As you pray, ask God to allow you to know Him the way He wants to be known by you.

**-Engage:** Consider how your life can influence others who are seeking to know Jesus personally.