

# Surprised By Joy

By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – March 27, 20016

EASTER SUNDAY

Luke 24:13-32

After experiencing events both saddening and wonderful, two disciples of Jesus walked along on a road from Jerusalem that led to a northern town named Emmaus. One disciple was named Cleopas (18), and the other one's name is withheld. Some believe it was Peter; others believe it was another certain disciple, but the truth is that we actually do not know who it was.

As they walked, they talked between themselves of the events that had happened in Jerusalem the past few days. These events were profound and historical. They would not long hence be written down in four Gospels for us to read and be blessed by the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Also, as they walked, Jesus came near to them, but Jesus hid their understanding of Him. He was a stranger to them. He began asking about the subject matter of their conversation and why they were so sad concerning these things.

They asked Jesus if He were a stranger and perhaps had missed out on the message of what had recently happened in Jerusalem. They said, "Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" Luke 24:18. Then Jesus asked, "What things?" This is a great question, because it is a question that we should all ask, a question that, if answered, will give answer to the many problems that face the world and its confusions. They said it was *Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:* (19).

Certainly we should all ask, What things?, as we consider the history of this great man, Jesus.

We need to know, not only who He is, but also what he did. Someone recently preached a series of sermons, not on WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?, but on WHAT DID JESUS DO? It is, then, more important to know what Jesus DID than to know what he WOULD DO. What did Jesus do?

We find the answer to that in the further discussion of these two men as they describe “these things” to Jesus. In verse 20 we read the beginning of what happened. Jesus was delivered to be condemned to death. Acts 2:23 says, *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, . . .* God delivered Jesus through the hands of chief priests and rulers to be crucified by his determinate counsel and foreknowledge, his own divine counsel, his divine wisdom that Jesus would be condemned, crucified, and slain.

At this point in time, Jesus has been condemned to death, crucified, and slain. This was a sad day in Jerusalem. At this time most did not know that Jesus had resurrected from the dead; they knew only that He had died and was gone from their presence. These two disciples, then, were saddened; because they had not seen Jesus after His resurrection. They had known only of His death. He was gone, and no one knew where he was. That is why they were sad. They thought that Jesus would be the one who should have redeemed Israel, (21).

They thought that Jesus, as Messiah, would overcome the government of Rome and set up His kingdom here on earth, a kingdom that would last forever; but this did not happen, and now Jesus is dead.

If Jesus is dead, then, all hope is gone: all hope for Israel, all hope for the Gentiles, all hope for the world, all hope for creation, all hope for all of us here today. A dead Messiah is no Messiah at all, for Messiah must be a Prophet, a Priest, and a King. A dead man can be none of these.

They continue to say in verse 21, *and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.* They evidently were convinced that, after three days in the tomb, Jesus would still be in

