

01.03.2010 (Sun)      Were not our hearts burning within us? (Lk 24:30-32)

*"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"* These were the words of our Lord, found in Lk 12:49, as he was preaching and in this verse, *earth* refers to the unbelieving world (Jn 1:11), and *fire* refers to the word of God (Jer 23:29). So when did the earth catch fire of the word? It was when the resurrection of the Lord was believed. That is the contents of Luke chapter 24.

During this time, the environment of Jerusalem was so brutal. Jesus Christ was captured like an animal and crucified on the cross. His body was prepared and buried by Joseph of Arimathea. Not only was there a huge stone that blocked the entrance of Jesus' tomb but there were also Roman soldiers who stood guard.

Now what was the purpose of so heavily guarding the *already* dead body? Because the religious leaders who stood at the forefront of killing Jesus for their hatred and envy did not forget one thing the Jesus had said.

They did not forget Jesus' word that he will rise again in three days (Mt 27:62-66). Thus they went to Pilate and asked him, *"So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."* However, how did the disciples of the Lord believe?

Far from believing that the Lord will rise again, the disciples rather just trembled in fear. Where those who should have believed did not, the non-believers were the ones who had remembered Jesus' words about his resurrection.

Certainly, Jesus had proclaimed this three times before his death, and as he had promised, he rose again after three days. But, none of the disciples had believed this (Lk 24:11). If you cannot be thankful, you do not have faith. Does it not tell us this in Rom 1:21, Col 3:17, and 2 Th 1:3?

The Lord had told his disciples to meet him in Galilee after he rose again from the dead but there was not one disciple who had faith in these words (Mk 16:7). Completely disregarding Galilee, instead, two disciples went to Emmaus where they fell into a state of utter bewilderment, enslaved by confusion and disappointed, and completely lost in sorrow (Lk 24:17).

And though at that moment, the risen Lord came before them, *"they were kept from recognizing him"* (Lk 24:16). Why didn't they recognize the resurrected Lord? In Lk 28:25 and following, the Lord gives us a clear answer to this by saying that it was because they did not have faith in the word.

*"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"* Who is foolish? Pr 28:26 tells us it is he who does not believe in God, the Word, and rather trust in himself. This is why the risen Lord did not do anything else but to unravel the word to his disciples.

How did he unravel it? He opened up their hearts and helped them to understand the word. When he explained the word, he opened their minds so they could understand (Lk 24:45)! Indeed, our God is a God who helps us understand.

He scrupulously explained what was said in all the Scriptures about him (Lk 24:27). *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."* In full detail, in its entirety!

Even with 3 years of witnessing all sorts of miracles and receiving many teachings, all of that had disappeared somewhere and in turn, those two disciples had anxiety written all over their faces. But, when the word was unraveled to them, they gained their faith and believed in the resurrection of the Lord.

How does the Lord unravel the Word to us? The word *open* in Lk 24:32 is *dianoigo*, which means *"to open up completely; to open thoroughly by explaining"*. *They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and open the Scriptures to us?"*

If we refer back to the original Greek word for *"burning"* in this verse it is *kaiomini*, which comes from *kaio* meaning *"blazing; burning; light; lit"*. Once the Word was opened up and unraveled to them, the earth of their hearts had caught fire!

As their faith in the Scriptures was renewed and the Word was opened up to them, joy and peace came upon them as the darkness in their hearts were brightened by the light. The kingdom of God is the power of the Word (1 Cor 4:20). Because they began to believe in the word, their hearts were brightened and burning. The fire of the Word was surely within their hearts allowing their faith to stand strong.

Dearest friends, not having faith is the root of sin (Jn 8:24, 16:9). In turn, *everything that does not come from faith is sin* (Rom 14:23). We work through the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 12:3 tells us this: *"Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."*

We have faith by receiving the Holy Spirit. We can have faith in the word! In the Lord! In resurrection! In our mission! In a transformed, renewed life! We regard the word through faith. Then all things we do will be lit! By the pure and holy light of His word!