

April 23rd 2006: Emmaus Road Resurrection Experience: Luke 24:13-35:
Baptismal Karen Rumpf

Grief is a mood....we have all exp....will do so again....

We grieve because we have lost...& the level of intensity of that grief....
is directly related to the emotional value we attach to that lost thing or person

SO

- **We grieve over** the first bump or scratch.....new car.....lost that pristine newness
- **We also grieve** when we begin to loose our health.....
but this grief is deeper....harder to handle

- **We especially grieve** when someone who we love dies....for we realise that in
earthly terms.....this is one loss...that affects us to an intensity that cannot be equaled

For altho all grief affects us to some degree....the grief assoc with ...one we have
lovedparticularly if that love and companionship....spanned many years
..**hits us harder**.....and lasts longer... than any other

This 'stand alone' type of grief.....strikes with numbing shock.....pain...anger...
...when the death was sudden.....violent.....unexpected.....
destroying dreams of what could have been

- **This was exactly the type of grief**.....Cleopas and his friend were experiencing
on that first Easter Sunday.....as they journeyed together toward the village of Emmaus

In Luke 24:13 we read.....The “two of them’ refers back to the Apostles and others..

So these were two of Jesus’ close followers

As such they had witnessed the crucifixion of their friend and leader...just the Friday b4

THEN

On the Sat....along with the rest.....the numbing shock had started to be replaced....
...by the unthinkable truth..... of Jesus’ death.....

No more would they...

Then came Sunday morning.....and the ridiculous story brought by the woman....of
angels...resurrection.....**And the** unavoidable empty tomb→theories of conspiracy

And it was all this confusion.....too much for their grief sickened hearts to handle
So they left the rest.....hotly debating the issue.....and started off toward their

And as they walked along.....they talked.....

- **But then the resurrected Christ came alongside**.....
and although they didn't recognize..
He being with themchanged everything

- Changed the way they viewed what had happened
- Changed their understanding of the Scriptures
- Changed their grief.....as they went from heartache...to hearts that burn't with excitement

All this happened....because Christ was with them.....even though they didn't know it was Him.....

That's an exciting thought really.....That Christ can be alongside people
assisting...aiding....revealing.....**Without** being asked....w/out being recognized

→ **and isn't that what we pray for**.....when we pray for our non-churched friends..
times of need....→**and** what an encouragement to keep on doing so...this passage gives!

(story of Arty...)

- **But what we also see here**.....is Christ demonstrating the power of the Scriptures

It was from the Scriptures...initially came to believe...in the fact of death/resurrection
Look at v25—27....Then v32.....

I sense that even before He revealed Himself.....they had come to accept....
..through His opening of the Scriptures....the fact of the resurrection

John talking about the part of the Scriptures he wrote said....John 20:30-31.....

We must never underestimate the power of the Bible to convert
(*Gideons...The Spirit is able to take and open a Scripture to a believer or non-believer*)

(*Philip Yancey tells the story of a man called Christian Reger.....Confessing Church
....Nazi Concentration camp.....p107...*)

We need to know the Scripture.....read the Scripture.....Because God will
speak to us through them.....and to those...that God leads us to pass His word on to

- **But it was not the Scriptures alone** that finally convinced them.....
Jesus was alive....**They** went a long way to doing so.....

What they heard from the Scriptures caused them
.....to constrain Him to remain....when it seemed He would have passed on by

But it was when He revealed Himself to them personally...that their eyes were opened
And they saw Him as their Lord.....

And straightaway.....went back to Jerusalem

With a burning desire.....share the truth about Jesus with others.

Today Karen is being baptized ...and its part of a journey for her...
going on for several years...

Bought up to attend church.....she has been surrounded by the Scriptures from an early
age.....**and in** her heart she early accepted the truth of them.....and sought to be true
to the Jesus she was taught to love and trust

But there came for her that moment.....when the Lord drew alongside.....and waited
Waited for her to constrain Him to stay in her life.....

Not just as a friend ...from whom she would receive so much....yet give little
But as her Master.....As the one she would put first...

- **The one who** would have the final say about every major decision.....
- **The One who** Has the right to be in charge...of what she does with her life.....
- **The One** that she is prepared to live for.....and if needed....to die for

Karen has not just made that decision.....She did so some time ago

This act of baptism is part of that total surrender to Jesus.....as her Lord and Saviour

This morning is the Lord drawing alongside you.....

wanting to reveal Himself....to you

Not just as a friend.....**that you can do as you please with**
But as your Lord.....Who demands complete allegiance

He asks you to take the step of total commitment.....A step that demands changes in life

In your thinking perhaps.....your plans.....your attitudes.....your obedience

That might mean for you.....as it has for Karen
the decision to be obedient and be Baptised

Will you let Him walk on by

Or will you give Him the place in your life...rightfully His

