



New Beginnings, Volume 13, 2008  
Pastor Jim Verkest, Mosinee UMC

*Luke 24:32*

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"*

The passage of scripture above comes from a longer passage (Luke 24:13-35) which is commonly known as the Walk to Emmaus passage. It takes place on a dusty road that ran from Jerusalem to Emmaus about seven miles apart. Two disciples were on a journey to Emmaus when they were joined by a third traveler. The disciples were so engaged in their discussion of what had happened in the last three days, (During those three days Jesus had been arrested, tortured, crucified and now that day resurrected) that they did not recognize at first that it was Jesus who had joined them. It was only as they broke bread together and he shared the words of scripture with them, that their eyes were opened and they recognized that it was Jesus.

In this story we have revealed to us an ancient truth about God and our relationship with Him. God for thousands of years has chosen to reveal Himself and His will to us through the words of scripture. The Bible is more than just an ancient book. It is more than just a collection of stories about God. The Bible, through the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, is the inspired word of God that allows us to know God's perfect will for our lives. Through the words of the Bible we can learn about God's love, forgiveness and grace that comes to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We learn that it is God's desire that all people of all nations be

reconciled to God's perfect love through the sacrifice of Jesus. God seeks after us and calls us to Him even in the midst of our brokenness and sin. In other words, God is faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to God.

In the world we live in today it is hard for us to make the right decisions about both our actions and our relationships. The values of the culture are often at odds with the values that Christ has shared with us through the words of scripture. As a result, we choose poorly at times. Yet, if we rely on God's word, as revealed in the Bible, we could save ourselves and others a great deal of pain and emotional anguish. Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. He calls us to love one another knowing that this will keep us from bringing harm to one another. Jesus shares the need for all of us to be compassionate to others in need. Jesus teaches us to love the unlovable and serve all people regardless of race, religion, or social status.

It's no wonder the hearts of the disciples burned as Jesus opened their eyes and their hearts to God's word. I believe if you would really invest yourself into reading and meditating on God's word it would be life transforming. New beginnings await those who seek after God.