



# Hearts Ablaze

**Luke 24:13-34**

**Sermon given on March 27, 2016**

**Calvary Chapel French Valley**

**Resurrection Sunday Service**

**@ FRM**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# HEARTS ABLAZE

## *Luke 24:13-34*

Greeting

- Turn in the Bible to **Luke 24**
- If you would like to follow along and need a Bible they are on the tables around the room
- If they are not, raise your hand and one of the guys will bring you one
- The page number of the text we are looking is up on the screen
- Yesterday, I was up early, and headed to my office as the sun was coming up
- And I wondered what it might have been like for the followers of Jesus on that Saturday morning
- On Thursday they had spent an awesome day with Jesus including sharing the Passover supper – a time of joy and rejoicing for the Jews
- Near the end of the day they headed out to the Garden of Gethsemane
- And that's when things started getting weird
- First, Jesus goes off, and is praying like they have never seen Him pray before
- Then Judas, who is one of the Twelve disciples of Jesus comes with a mob in a wicked act of betrayal and Jesus is arrested
- He is falsely accused, beaten, dragged from one place to another, scourged nearly to death, and then on Friday morning Jesus is crucified, dies, and is put into a tomb by the end of the day Friday
- What must that Saturday morning have been like?
- This was not how things were supposed to happen
- They were expecting great things out of Jesus
- Peter responding to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say that I am?'

**Matthew 16:16**

**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

- The Christ was the promised Savior of the nation of Israel
- They were expecting the Christ to set up a kingdom on the earth and to save the Jews from all their enemies

- His death on the cross was not what they were expecting
- Saturday morning would have been a ‘Now what?’ moment in their lives
- In my life I have had a couple of ‘Now what?’ moments
- I had a plan for my plan, I was working my plan, and my plan was working
- And then suddenly something happens and my plan is thrown out the window
- I am guessing that I am not the only that has experienced something like that in life
- ‘Now what?’ moments bring waves emotions and thoughts
- Fear, worry, doubt, guilt, frustration, anger, bitterness
- Feeling a sense of pointlessness, feeling directionless are common
- We can’t know exactly what the disciples of Jesus were feeling on that Saturday after He died
- But we can relate to the feeling of having our world turned upside down
- And then, it was Sunday
- **Pray!**

### **Teaching**

- **Hearts Ablaze**
- In Luke 24 we have the account of two men who were followers of Jesus
- **Luke 24:13-14**
- Two guys, one names Cleopas and the other unnamed – we’ll call him Boaz
- Walking along talking about what they heard that morning
- Then someone joins them as they walk and talk
- **Luke 24:15-16**
- Cleopas and Boaz know Jesus, and here He is walking and talking with them, but they didn’t realize it
- Somehow they were prevented from recognizing Jesus
- Bible doesn’t say how or why, just that it was
- **Luke 24:17-24**
- Put yourselves in Cleopas and Boaz’ place

- All of it is kind of overwhelming, ‘What is going on?’
- They are trying to make sense of it all, but it doesn’t make any sense
- They had put their hope in Jesus but then He died – now they are hearing that He is alive
- What does it all mean?
- Jesus then helps them to see more clearly
- **Luke 24:24-27**
- These two guys couldn’t see Jesus with their eyes
- And so Jesus shows Himself to them from the Scriptures
- There is a powerful lesson in that for all of us
- After Jesus was resurrected He walked on the earth for forty days and then He ascended to heaven
- The Bible teaches that He will not come back again until it is time to set up His kingdom
- Until then we are just like these disciples
- Jesus is alive but we can’t see Him, at least not in the flesh
- But we can see Him in the Bible **John 5:39-40**

**You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.**

- If you want to see Jesus today, look for Him on the pages of the Bible
- **Luke 24:28-31**
- Jesus was alive, but different
- He had a body that could be touched – He could eat
- But He could also appear out of thin air, and disappear just as quickly
- This is exciting because someday we are going to have bodies just like that
- Imagine being these two guys – sitting there with this strange man
- He is explaining to them why Jesus was supposed to be betrayed and die just like He did
- And then He takes a piece of bread and broke it and gave it to them
- And suddenly there is Jesus sitting in front of them
- I can’t even imagine what was going through their minds at that moment
- And then just as suddenly He vanishes

- I can almost imagine the Cleopas and Boaz looking at each other and thinking, ‘What just happened?’
- Then the reality of Jesus being alive starts to settle into their hearts
- And they realize something else
- **Luke 24:32**
- As they listened to this strange Man who later revealed Himself to be Jesus
- Something was stirring in their hearts
- ‘did not our hearts burn within us’
- What was that? What was burning within them?
- It is not passion – Passion is a strong emotional feeling or response
- The best word that describes the ‘burning within’ is ‘zeal’
- Zeal = fervor for a person, cause, or object = speaks of intensity
- The risen Jesus ignited something within them
- And their zeal caused them to do something
- **Luke 24:33-34**
- Something was different now – they went from being sad and confused to being on fire
- What was different? They had seen the risen Christ
- And what was true for Cleopas and Boaz was true for the rest of the disciples
- They went from being sad, confused, and directionless
- They went from having their world turned upside down to being world-changers
- So my question for you today is, ‘What is the temperature of your heart?’ ‘Can you say that you are zealous for the things of God?’
- Does your heart burn within you? And if not, what can you do about it?
- I’m going to take you back to school for a moment
- Anyone remember the Fire Triangle (#1)
- For fire to exist, three things must be present; oxygen, heat, and fuel
- Remove any of the three and fire cannot happen
- If there is not a fire burning in your heart, if there is no zeal for the Lord, something is missing

- Just like fire needs three things, zeal needs three things to be present also (#2)
- And if any of those three things is missing there will be no zeal
- The first of the three things that you need is the Scriptures (#3)
- If a fire is not constantly supplied with oxygen, it will go out
- The same thing is true for the fire burning in our heart, it needs regular exposure to the Word of God
- We believe that the Bible should be read daily
- But the Word of God by itself will not light a fire in your heart
- The second of the three things you need is the Holy Spirit (#4)
- Just reading the Bible is not going to do much for you
- The Apostle Paul tells us that without the Holy Spirit, the Bible cannot be understood **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**

**These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

- As we learn to respond to the Holy Spirit, we are putting together what is needed to light a fire within our hearts
- And just like the fire triangle, having two out of the three is not going to make fire
- The third thing you need to light a fire in your heart is faith (#5)
- But not just any faith – faith in a risen Christ **Romans 10:9-10**

**...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

- If you put these three things; Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and faith in the risen Christ together – zeal is produced
- Just like we do not create fire – we simply put oxygen, heat, and fuel together and fire is the result
- These two men, Cleopas and Boaz, or whatever his name was, they felt the fire within them
- I have that fire in my heart as well

- It doesn't always burn as hot as I would like, but just like a campfire, if I simply add more fuel, more faith to the glowing embers, it will start to burn again

### **Invitation**

- **Hearts Ablaze**

- So, what about you? Is there a fire burning in your heart? Can you say that you are on fire for Jesus?
- And if not, why not? What is missing?
- Maybe you need to commit or recommit to reading your Bible
- Maybe the Holy Spirit has been trying to talk to you, but you aren't listening
- Maybe He has told you to do something but you haven't done it
- That will quench the fire also
- Maybe there is sin in your life that is throwing dirt on the fire in your heart
- Or maybe you are here and you used to be on fire for Jesus, but something has cooled within you
- Maybe the issues of life are throwing water or dirt on your fire
- Maybe your fire is just embers, maybe it is the tiniest of sparks, maybe it has gone out entirely
- Commit today to pour the Word of God into your heart, to respond to the Holy Spirit as He teaches and leads, and to believe in the risen Christ
- And watch and see if that fire doesn't come back
- And even if you have that fire burning within add more of God's Word, yield more fully to the Holy Spirit, and grow in your faith
- This world needs people on fire for Jesus, this community is desperate for the light that fire puts out, your family will burn brighter if you burn brighter
- Try to imagine those two guys as they walked to Emmaus
- Heads down, shoulders slumped, arms dangling listlessly, with a shuffling kind of pace
- And then imagine them on the road back to Jerusalem after talking and seeing Jesus
- Heads high, a spring in their step – their hearts ablaze

- That's how I want to go through this life – how about you?
- **Let's Pray**