

Friday, April 9, 2010

Text: Luke 24: 28-35

A Heart Burning Experience

Key Verse: "They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32 NLT

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Many years ago, I heard A.K. Gopalan, then Principal of the local Polytechnic College here in the town where I live, narrate the experience that he and another student had in England. Having located the residence of the Principal of the college they were about to join, they stood at the main door of the building, shivering from cold, and pushed the calling bell. The door was at once opened and there stood a tall man wearing a long woolen coat. With a smile on his face, he asked the anxious students to come in. While the three sat at the fire side the gentleman told the Indian youth to feel at home. They thanked him thinking he was an attendant there. Then the man said, "What can I do for you ?".

The two at once answered in unison and said, "We want to see the Principal.". Their host said, "Well, I am the Principal." Their joy knew no bounds, knowing that they were in the presence of the very person whom they wanted to meet. That the Principal would have answered the door surprised them. For in India in those days much distance was maintained between the teacher and the taught. It was a novel and rare experience.

In our passage the two men are travelling to Emmaus from Jerusalem, when the risen Lord Jesus joined them and took part in their conversation. They did not know his identity. At their request their fellow traveler consents to be their guest at Emmaus that evening. As they sit at the supper table Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. "Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him "(V.30). By breaking the bread, the Bread of Heaven opened their eyes.

When the living Lord, the Bread of Heaven provides spiritual food for our souls, He opens the Scriptures by his Spirit to us and we will have a heart burning experience like the two on the Emmaus road. The prophet Jeremiah

talks about such a heart burning experience when he says, “But his word was in my heart like a burning fire” (Jeremiah 20 : 9) May this be our experience as we walk closely with the risen Lord, our Master.