

April 15, 2020

Signs of His Love - Part 3

Luke 24:13-15, “And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them.”

Jesus again appears in the midst of two travelers. One of them is identified later as Cleopas. These two are walking on the road to Emmaus and Jesus appears and begins walking with them. Now, why would Jesus be going to Emmaus? Because it was where they were going. Jesus cares so much for people that the destination is not as important as the journey. And, He doesn't immediately announce His arrival in their presence, He just shows up. The scripture says that their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. Many have wondered why or how they could not recognize such a recognizable figure. Chuck Missler theorizes that all of the scars and beatings that Jesus took, changed His appearance in such a way that He was unrecognizable. This finds validation from Isa. 52:14, “Just as there were many who were appalled at Him - His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness.”

I believe that many artists who have rendered pictures of Jesus after the resurrection, have hidden all of the scars except the ones in His hands, feet, and side. Why would He only have scars there and not over His whole body? He took the worst physical beating possible. Isa. 53:5, “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

Missler then theorizes that they did not recognize Him immediately because His appearance had so drastically been changed by the brutal beatings, scourging, and torture that He went through physically. This begs the question then; why would the perfect God of all not heal Himself of all these scars? The obvious answer is that these scars are a reminder to us all of what He was willing to go through for you and me. It wasn't until He went in to the house with them and reclined at the table with them, that they recognized who He was – Luke 24:30-35, “When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.”

He became our punishment. He became our sin, so that we might go free and be made whole. He loves us that much. I don't know for sure, but when I get to see Him some day, I believe I will still see the scars that my sin helped put on Him.

Oh Dear Jesus, I am so sorry You had to endure the cross, the punishment, the sacrifice for me. But, I am so thankful that You did. I praise You great name, the name above all names; Jesus! In Jesus Name, Amen