**Recognizing the Risen Savior (Luke 24:28-35)**

 Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

 Christ has risen from the dead! Our Savior lives and waits for us to recognize Him when He accompanies us on our journey… Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we rejoice today in our Lord’s victory over the power of sin and death. Today our thoughts will take us back to the Emmaus event, during which Jesus accompanied two disciples who were confused about the strange news that they had received a few hours prior… Today, we do not only celebrate Jesus’ resurrection; but along with it, the proofs of its veracity. Jesus did not only rise from the dead, but He also proved that He did so, and that is a great blessing that we will touch upon today. Jesus, in proving His resurrection through His appearances, wanted to correct, strengthen and establish His disciples in their trust in Him. Jesus did not leave them alone, and as we will see, God, through Jesus, reveals Himself to us also and waits for us to recognize Him and to spread the Good News of His Son’s salvation. Christ has risen from the dead! Our Savior lives and waits for us to recognize Him when He accompanies us on our journey… Let us speak, therefore about this celebration, glorification and praise-worthy act by our Savior.

 Jesus has risen from the dead and works to get your attention, that you would recognize Him both experientially and through the Scriptures. On that Sunday morning, the news of Jesus’ resurrection amazed every disciple. Two of them had gotten on the road towards the village of Emmaus and were discussing the astonishing new things that they had heard. Someone approached them, and when He asked about the topic of discussion, they answered Him disrespectfully, whether it was out of their astonishment or their confusion. In other words, you would think that they considered themselves “in the know” and the Stranger as an Ignorant Man. Oh, that they had recognized Who it was that accompanied them! Oh, that they had known just what that burning meant - that fire that kindled in their hearts - when He began to speak about the Savior that had to suffer before entering His glory! Oh, that their reading of the Scriptures for years had benefited them and that they had allowed their eyes to be open by them!

The Word of God, however, which Jesus used to prove His atoning death and resurrection, only made them a little thirsty for God during His visitation that was taking place in front of them. They had gotten so used to the natural world that they had forgotten that their Teacher was, in fact, the Messiah, over whom death itself could not rule! They had known the Word of God as only a collection of facts, and not as the book about the revelation of God’s salvation through the Teacher that they had come to know. But, Glory to God, even that level of spiritual blindness was not an insurmountable obstacle for Jesus. When He sat at the table with them and they saw His hands, whether it was the way he broke the bread or the apparent scars from the nails, they no longer had any room for doubt or natural explanations for the strange news that they had received earlier. They found themselves in front of the Truth. If the Risen Savior did not lift their blindness with His earlier predictions before His death, then by His direct appearance (post death), not one obstacle hindered His revelation anymore, and the disciples immediately recognized Him for who He was.

 Jesus defeats obstacles today as well! He appears to both believers and non-believers to prove His Presence and Identity to them. If we read the accounts of missionaries or those of the spiritual experiences of believers, we find that Jesus has never stopped joining up with people journeying on the road to Emmaus. In whichever continent you think of, God has His people there today. Be they former cannibals for whose salvation many preachers gave their lives, or other countries where the name of Christ is forbidden to be preached and Bibles forbidden to be brought in, the Lord has raised up hidden churches and brought in tons of Bibles through those borders for the salvation of the multitudes… Why? It is because the Lord is alive and He continues to be revealed to every ethnic group.

The revelation of Emmaus relates to us as well, too. God joins us as well to encourage and strengthen our faith. Many start with strong faith and are enthusiastic about Jesus’ resurrection. However, as the years go by, they are influenced by unbelievers and doubters and long for a true revelation once more… If you feel that way today, turn your attention to the Bible, and you will see that Jesus has been walking with you all this time. Jesus knows our ways, our lifestyles very well. He is waiting for us to perceive beyond the reality of our hearts burning from within and to recognize His presence as we continue our faith-journey.

Having said the above, Jesus is revealing Himself to us every day through the Bible, if we accept its words as true and recognize the truth of the Savior’s predictions and continue to read His teachings and about His miracles. Jesus is always desiring that He open our eyes through the revelation of His direct presence. Jesus has risen from the dead and wants to grab your attention. Come and let us see Him together on the pages of the Scriptures. Come and let us see and hear Him together in our prayer lives and spiritual experiences. Let us not suppose that Jesus’ resurrection has nothing to say to us today. Rather, let us recognize our Living, Victorious and Only Lord and Savior, who accompanies us and works to open our eyes to His presence and His accomplished salvation.

Jesus has risen from the dead and works to get your attention, that you would recognize Him both experientially and through the Scriptures. Christ has risen from the dead! Our Savior lives and waits for us to recognize Him when He accompanies us on our journey… I congratulate you all on the celebration of The Resurrection. May we recognize Jesus when He accompanies us as the Risen Savior. Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ! Amen.