

The Need Is in Me

Read Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:13-35 records the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The time was Easter Sunday evening, and the two were walking to a village outside Jerusalem. They had heard initial reports of the Resurrection but had not yet believed them. As they traveled, Jesus joined them, but without being recognized. He drew them into talking about the events that troubled them so deeply.

I am struck by the irony of v.21. Reflecting on Jesus' crucifixion, they said, "but we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel." They didn't realize what had happened. The very event that grieved them was their redemption; and the One they were mourning as dead was the One walking alongside them. *They were staring at what they had hoped and prayed for, but didn't recognize it.*

I wonder how often we stare at God's answers to our needs but don't recognize them. Like those two disciples, sometimes our understanding is just too shallow and time-bound. Sometimes we are looking for the easiest way out, for the quickest relief to our pain.

But sometimes we fail to understand God's answers because we fail to understand the need. We don't realize how deep it goes. We usually think the need is a something or a somebody – somebody other than us, of course. These disciples thought the problem was the Romans. Thus when God promised to save them, they assumed He meant political deliverance. But they themselves were the problem. The sin within each of them was the need. God's efforts focused on them, not on the Romans.

Maybe that's why I don't understand my difficulties at times, and why I'm frustrated when God's deliverance doesn't come the way I think it should. He's working on the problem all right, but the problem usually isn't the other guy or my circumstances. It's me: my willingness to trust God with my concerns; my willingness to love others even when it's difficult.

We are His project. He is concerned about us, not about some circumstances or building or program. He constantly works to redeem us to the very root of our need. He loves us too much to do otherwise. And He often uses our needs and weaknesses to get our attention and call us to Himself.

When the pain is most pressing, He is with you. Look in His face and listen for His loving guidance. Hold steady, and He will do His work in you.

Hymn: [I Walk the Dark Emmaus Road](#)