

“When the words of the Lord burn in our hearts...”

Luke 14

Today, Friday, March 26, 2010, I read some stories from the Christian Standard brochure. This brochure was made available in our church and was dated February 21, 2010. The stories I read were about people who visited the Holy Land and the effect it had on their lives. Some learned how small this land of Israel actually is but how the land is used to produce abundant food supplies. One person wrote about how Israel was described as his “spiritual home”. And then there was the person who did not want to travel to Israel but did so and as the years went by after his first trip, in his retirement years, he was planning on going back for the tenth time.

When one thinks of things that are truly important to them there are many occasions in which we get a little emotional. A quivering voice, eyes that have a few tears or maybe it is just difficult to speak. These truly important things fall into a very special category for each and every one of us. This category is the heartfelt emotional responses that we have to most important issues in our lives. Some examples are: family, men and women who serve our country, children who suffer harsh and difficult lives because of poor decisions their parents made, a parent burying one of their children. You have special events in your life that evoke the type of emotion that I spoke about above. These are very heartfelt responses. These events are not always negative and the wonderful and positive things that occur also remain quite special. Yes, you did cry a little when that child of yours was born. Tears of joy are wonderful to experience and fortunately very difficult to forget.

Those stories that I read today written by people I do not know were very emotional for me. Just like the people who wrote the stories, I have traveled and walked this land of Israel. I understand the emotions that those people had as they visited the Sea of Galilee, the Garden Tomb, Golgotha, the crowded and exciting streets of old Jerusalem, Masada, the Golan, Abraham’s well. Their Bible took on a new and wonderful meaning. Their Bible became alive. They will never read it the same way because they have the experiences that enhance and revitalize them in their spiritual walk.

When our Lord rose from the dead and women went to the tomb with spices they did not find the body in the tomb. Two men reminded these women of the words of the Lord, **“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”** Then they remembered. On this same day our Lord spoke to two men on the road to Emmaus and they did not recognize him. Our Lord was to spend the night with them and as he began to bless the food we are told that, “Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” Our Lord then disappeared. In both examples people are reminded before they remember. Are we like that as well? Let us learn from the two men on the road. Let us learn from the women that went to the tomb. Let us learn that when we study the scripture the words of the Lord must burn in our hearts so that we do remember. We will be more alert, more prepared during our daily walk to share with others and to let them see Jesus in us.

Did these men not experience, in this walk on the road to Emmaus love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control? Of course they did. Can we not experience the same? Of course we can.

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)

With the upcoming Passover celebration that we all have an opportunity to experience.....a reminder.

“He is not here. He has risen.....” (Matthew 28:6)