

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 6 – Tuesday

Luke 24:13-17

There are two examples in the scriptures that I feel are absolutely the best examples of shepherding. I just love coming to these chapters and I cannot exhaust what I see here. They are Luke 24 and John 21. These are the final two chapters of these two books. Luke 24 starting from verse 13 is speaking of something on the day of the Lord's resurrection. The first few verses of this chapter tell of the sisters going to the tomb and finding out that the Lord resurrected. Then they go back and tell the brothers, and Peter runs and sees that the Lord is not there. They are marvelling and somewhat confused. Some believe and some don't believe: "He said that He would resurrect, but I can't believe it." Sometimes we are too hard on these brothers and sisters because we all believe in the resurrection, but this was brand new to them. So two of them, probably discouraged, were leaving Jerusalem to go home.

Verse 13 says, "And behold, two of them were going on the same day to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia away from Jerusalem." Sixty stadia is 11 kilometres, a long way. They were going and talking to each other about all these things, then: "And while they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them" (v. 15). Do you think that they were walking fast? I don't think so because they were sad; when you are sad you don't walk fast. They were confused and then all of a sudden Jesus was with them but they didn't recognize Him. This is hard to understand. This is the first principle of shepherding. When you go to shepherd someone, they should not recognize that you are shepherding them. You should not tell them, "Hey, I am here to shepherd you. I am here to save you and take care of you. Open your heart to me." Don't do that; they will probably not talk to you for a year. You need to be incognito; you need to be very human. The Lord was resurrected; you would think that He would have some kind of aura about Him. No, He looked just like a man, very ordinary. He was walking with them but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.

Verse 17 says, "And He said to them, What are these words which you are exchanging with one another while you are walking? And they stood still, looking sad." He asked, "What are these words?" Did He not know what these words were? Did He forget that He got resurrected? Whenever God asks a question it is not necessary. There is no question that God could ask that He does not know the answer to before He asks the question, so why does He ask the question? In Genesis 3 God asked, "Adam, where are you?" Do you think that God was thinking, "Where did I put that man?" No, He knew where Adam was but He still asked, "Adam, where are you?" We do this when we are playing with children, "Where are you?" (She's right there.) "Where are you? I can't find you." God was playing a little bit. "What are these words?" Then look at the answer: "And one of them, Cleopas by name, answered and said to Him, Do You alone dwell as a stranger in Jerusalem and not know the things which have taken place in it in these days?" That is a little condescending; I don't like his attitude here. It is as if he was saying, "Where are you from?" And Jesus is there; what does He say in the next verse? "What things?" Can you believe that this is our Lord? This is the best shepherding. When you go to people, ask the proper questions. The proper question is not, "Did you read the Bible this week? Did you have morning watch?" Those are not the proper questions. "Are you coming to the meeting on Saturday?" No, that is not the proper question. You have to touch whatever is in their heart. That is the proper question. It is not easy sometimes to ask the proper question. Sometimes we ask the improper question and make it worse than before. It would have been better if we had not visited that person.