

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

March 2, 2008

Hearts on fire

by David King

"Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Lk. 24:32).

These words were spoken by two disciples a few days after the crucifixion of Jesus. They had been conversing with a stranger on the road to Emmaus, who explained many of the Old Testament passages dealing with the Messiah. As this fellow spoke, all the inexplicable events of the last few days started to make sense: the betrayal, the crucifixion, the rumors of the missing body. These events were not the collapse of an imposter's grand scheme, but part of God's master plan. They had been foretold by the old prophets all along. This "stranger" had laid it all out for them, when suddenly, in a flash of recognition, they realized who they were talking to: It was Jesus Himself, returned from the dead.

We are interested here in the disciples' description of the intellectual clarity that Jesus brought to their minds as He explained the Scriptures to them: "did not our hearts burn within us?" As Jesus stitched together these odd bits and pieces of Scripture, so difficult to understand, into a pattern that exposed a logical plan, these disciples became excited. As the broad outline began to emerge, no doubt they could start plugging in other Scriptures that Jesus had not mentioned. Their faith, which had been shattered a few days before, now had a solid foundation to rest upon.

There is no thrill quite like the "eureka moment" of finally unravelling a hidden truth in God's word. People often complain about the Bible being such a difficult book to understand, and it can be—sometimes frustratingly so. But it is not meaningless gibberish. It has a plan, a plot, and a host of major and minor themes, all designed to address the deepest needs of the human condition. Understanding the Bible is not always easy, but with persistent study and thought, it will yield its secrets to the one who is determined to find them.

But that's the trick, isn't it? How badly do we really **want** to understand it? These disciples had been fervent followers of Jesus, hanging upon His every word. Even after He was killed, they couldn't stop talking about Him, trying to figure out what had happened. When Jesus came into their midst and began talking to them about the Scriptures, He was dealing with men whose minds were prepared to be enlightened. Their hearts burned with excitement at what they were learning, because they were mentally prepared for it.

If our hearts do not burn when the Scriptures are opened up to us, perhaps we need to re-examine our spiritual condition. How much time do we devote to reading and thinking about the Scriptures? How often do we talk about the Bible with other believers? How curious are we about those portions of the Bible that are still locked from our understanding?

Our hearts can burn, too, but only if we prepare them to be ignited when the right spark comes along.