

Hope Or Despair

“And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done”, Luke 24:19-21.

Two disciples had left Jerusalem, and were walking towards Emmaus, a village some seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were talking about recent events. They were sad. This was the third day, and they had been anticipating major events, but nothing had really happened.

Their mind set was just wishful desires that something should have changed, preferably with a loud trumpet or bang.

Something had happened, but not everyone had come to realise that a resurrection of a dead body had taken place, and that the pseudo ruler of this world had been beaten.

Jesus, who they took to be another traveller on the road, caught up with them, and courteously enquired why they were so sad.

After listening to their answer, which showed and declared that despair Jesus now lit a fuse in their hearts, that would ultimately bring light into their lives with the question, ‘What things?’

They were, like many people to day, were looking at the surface more than the foundations upon which the surface had been laid.

Jesus opened the Old Testament Scriptures that pointed directly to Him. He would come and prove that the Word of God was infallible. He would give sight to the blind. He would heal the maimed. He would raise the dead. He would offer eternal life to those who would rely upon Him. He would die, and rise again on the third day.

They had witnessed all these things. The third day had come, but the One they were relying upon had not stormed back into Jerusalem as the supreme victor.

They even admitted that their hearts had burned within them as He walked and talked to them on the way.

Joining them for a meal, by the act of breaking bread with them, the fuse had ignited all the lights in their life.

Jesus had blasted despair out of their lives, and installed a victorious hope.

The word needs to be opened, and the foundations examined, that the Lord can build a lampstand within us, taking away the darkness. Despair prefers to work in the darkness.

Hope, built on a solid foundation of an expected fulfilment, and Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews wrote, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen", Hebrews 11:1.

Without FAITH there is no HOPE, Without HOPE you have opened the door to DESPAIR.