

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 777

April 3, 2024

“A Burning Heart Can Be Good!”

In The Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, Luke gives us the account of Jesus walking with two going to the town of Emmaus. The following is that story.

And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” They began to relate their experiences on the

road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

I have always loved this story. Jesus arose that morning from the dead. He is alive. Mary reports to the disciples (John 20), “I have seen the Lord.” But it appears that none of His disciples believe Mary’s account. Cleopas, and who many commentators believe was with his wife, were on their way home. They had left Jerusalem in time to get home before dark, for traveling at dark was dangerous. Jesus comes to walk with them and reveals what the Old Testament said about Him. But it was not until He broke bread with them in their home for supper that their eyes were open and they recognized Him. At that point, Jesus disappears.

I love what they say next. **“Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”** And they decided the heck with the danger of traveling at night, we are heading back to Jerusalem to tell everyone that the LORD has really risen!

All of us reading this who are adults could say, “My heart has burned within in me.” And what we would mean by that is, that I have experienced terrible heartburn because of something I ate. But this was different. They had a strange feeling inside of them that something was familiar with this man walking with them. They were in Jesus’ presence, and their hearts burned.

Has your heart ever burned for Jesus? Have you felt so close to Him, so in the moment of His presence in you, that you knew He was alive, in you? What a feeling that is to experience. Not everyone does, because not every knows Him. Not everyone has His Spirit living in them.

Jesus wants you to know Him intimately. He wants you to experience His presence is such a way, that you feel as one. If today, His distance seems somewhat distant, stop and pray. Ask God for the risen presence of the LORD, His Son. You may need to confess some sin in your life that is keeping Him at bay. But in truly confessing and asking God for a closeness of His Spirit, your heart will burn within you as He comes close to you.

These two from Emmaus could not withhold telling others about the risen Lord. How about you? Is Jesus so real and close to you that there is no way that you cannot tell others about Him? I pray that is so. A burning heart can be good.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 3

Wednesday Night Supper, Study,
& Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Friday, April 5

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 7

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 10

Wednesday Night Supper, Study,
& Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - April 7

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - April 7

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - April 7

Benjamin Pierce

Live Streaming - April 7

Al Floyd

Communion - April

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - April 7

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - April 7

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Luke 10: 25 - 37

**"Missing the
Opportunity"**

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Apr	7	Mark	10
Apr	8	Mark	11
Apr	9	Mark	12
Apr.	10	Mark	13
Apr	11	Mark	14
Apr	12	Mark	15
Apr	13	Mark	16

Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"
for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Boxed Cereal

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, April 13

Plans are to attend the Evangelism
Workshop at Englewood EPC in
Rocky Mount from 10:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, & Prayer Tonight

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

Menu:

Stew Beef & Rice,

Corn, Bread, & Dessert

We are studying Exodus

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

Will hold our Presbytery Meeting on
April 26 & 27 @ Trinity EPC,
Florence, SC

Please be in prayer for all the
Commissioners

Quotes of the Week

***"Lies and false reports
are among Satan's
choicest weapons."***

J. C. Ryle

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie
Baldwin, Ron Clifton, Donna Williams,
Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister &
Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi
Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers,
Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law,
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of
Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's
brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Ellie
Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and
Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad
and stepmom), our Military, our
Missionaries, our Nation, and the world.
If you have those you would like added to
our prayer concerns, please email me
those names.

HOPE - REBOOT NOW

Everyday Prayer

For

The Vision Team

The Session

The Congregation

Vision Team Meeting

Tuesday

April 16th

@ 7 PM

Via Zoom

**Susie Savino, our new
Worship Leader, will be with
us on April 7th & 21st. Then
a couple more times in the
month of May before she
officially begins on June 1st.
Plan to welcome her this
Sunday, April 7th**

HOPE Church Raleigh
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4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)**