GATE School of Ministry [DC] Bible Study Notes

Module : The Primacy of the Word of God

<u>Session 4</u>: Revealing Christ From The Scriptures

<u>Focus</u>: Divine Disclosure By Leading Christ Out From the Word



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LONG WALK TO DIVINE DISCLOSURE

Luke 24:1-53

- 1 Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.
- 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
- 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
- 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
- 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?
- 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
- 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.
- 8 And they remembered his words,
- 9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.
- 10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
- 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.
- 12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass
- 13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named **Emmaus**, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.
- 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.
- 15 While they were <u>talking and discussing</u>, <u>Jesus Himself approached</u> and *began* travelling with them.
- 16 But their eyes were prevented from RECOGNIZING Him.
- 17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, <u>looking sad.</u>
- 18 One *of them,* named <u>Cleopas,</u> answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"
- 19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet <u>mighty in deed and word</u> in the sight of God and all the people,
- 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.
- 21 "But <u>we were hoping</u> that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the <u>third day</u> since these things happened.

- 22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,
- 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that **He was alive.**
- 24 "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but <u>Him they did not see</u>."
- 25 And He said to them, "O <u>foolish men</u> and <u>slow of heart</u> to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!
- 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"
- 27 Then <u>beginning</u> <u>with Moses</u> and with all <u>the prophets</u>, <u>HE EXPLAINED</u> to them the things concerning Himself IN ALL the Scriptures.
- 28 And they **approached the village** where they were going, and **He acted as though** He were going farther
- 29 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.
- 30 When He had <u>reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it,</u> and breaking it, He began giving it to them.
- 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.
- 32 They said to one another, "Were not <u>our hearts burning</u> within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while <u>He was explaining the Scriptures to us</u>?"
- 33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them,
- 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."
- 35 They *began* to <u>relate their experiences</u> on the road and how <u>He was recognized by them</u> in the breaking of the bread.
- 36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be to you."
- 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.
- 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
- 39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
- 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.
- 41 While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
- 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;
- 43 and He took it and ate it before them.
- 44 Now He said to them, "These are <u>My words</u> which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about <u>Me in the Law of Moses</u> and the <u>Prophets</u> and <u>the Psalms</u> must be fulfilled."
- 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
- 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,
- 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- 48 "You are witnesses of these things.

- 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- 50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.
- 51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.
- 52 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
- 53 and were continually in the temple praising God.

We are transformed into aspects of His image that He exposes to us (2 Cor.3:18). As we behold, so we are changed. Our representation of Him must become more accurate by virtue of our deeper and more intimate subjective encounter with the revelation of His Person through His Word. Luke 24 contains vital principles for accessing the nature of Christ through His Word. It contains key principles that facilitates the disclosure of Christ to us. What are the conditions that allow us access to that which He desires to show of Himself?

PRINCIPLES TO EXTRACT

1. ONE-NESS - THE CONTEXT FOR DISCLOSURE

Note that there were TWO disciples.

JESUS disclosed Himself to these two disciples through the Scriptures. The context in which He did this was one of 'agreement'. The number two (2) is symbolic of 'agreement', 'witness', or testimony'.

Amos 3:3 NKJV : Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

The state of one-ness and of agreement is the most ideal and conducive environment in and through which God's Word is easily decoded and - and in doing so, Christ becomes manifest.

Listen to their testimony:

Luke 24:32 (NASB) They said to one another, "Were not <u>our hearts</u> (singular: our heart) burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

(KJV) And they said one to another, Did not <u>our heart burn within</u> us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scripture

<u>Note</u>: Two men had one heart - indicates a state of walking as 'one man' - total oneness and agreement.

Under Nehemiah's reformation process Ezra, the scribe, read and gave explanation/understanding from the law of Moses for six hours (a quarter of the day). I believe that a possible reason for the ease with which this was done was because the people gathered 'as one man'.

Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.

For people to stand that long to engage God's Word is supernatural.

<u>Here is the point</u>: The state of one-ness affords the gathering of God's sons a unique measure of grace to transcend the physical limitations of a tired body and mind, in order to attentively receive, intelligibly understand and then consciously obey profound truth from God's Word.

Division, disunity, schism, disharmony, etc. poses a significant obstacle to the release of deep, profound and relevant revelation from God's Word. God will not release the nuggets of His treasured Word to a divided house.

Consider also the following Scriptures:

- **2 Chron. 30:12** The hand of God was also on Judah to give **them one heart to** do what the king and the princes **commanded by the word of the LORD.**
- Act 2:46

 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
- Acts 4:32 And the congregation of those who believed were of <u>one heart and soul</u>; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.
- <u>Consider Also</u>: Where there is a strong established state of one-ness and agreement as a position in the spirit in which God's Word is received, then the capacity for widespread corporate obedience becomes a reality.
 - Hag. 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD.
 - Ex. 19:8 All the people ANSWERED TOGETHER and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

2. A DESIRE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE TIMES

A factor, amongst many, that cemented these two disciples, was a serious concern and desire to know and understand the spiritual significance and implications of the times in which they found themselves. Jesus had died, but they were unaware that He had risen from the dead and was alive.

<u>Luke 24:14</u> indicates that "they were <u>talking with each other</u> about all these things which had taken place" - this reflects not just a light theological dialogue, but an intense desire to understand God's current dealings in the earth.

Those with whom you walk closely must be burdened by a strong desire to know and understand the times in which you live, so that your behaviour then becomes relevant in reference to that which God requires. Do not walk closely with someone who is spiritually indifferent to the seriousness of the hour in which we live. Their lack of awareness and urgency will translate into a behaviour pattern not in keeping with the demand of God for that season. The things that you esteem will not be a priority for them.

<u>1 Chron 12:32</u> Of the sons of Issachar, men who <u>understood the times</u>, with <u>knowledge of</u>
<u>what Israel should do</u>, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen

were at their command.

If you know the times, you will know what to do. Failure to know the times renders your behaviour and activity irrelevant and inaccurate. Further still, you will be prone to negative emotional states: the two disciples were 'sad' thinking Jesus was not alive.

An Aside - Consider :

Haggai 1:2-11

- 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'This people says, "The <u>time has not come</u>, even the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt.""
- 3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,
- 4 "<u>Is it time</u> for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house *lies* desolate?"
- 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!
- "You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."
- 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!
- 8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD.
- 9 "You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.

- 10 "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce.
- 11 "I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

Irrelevant work results from failure to understand the time and to know what to do. In Haggai's day, the people were preoccupied with the wrong thing (building their own panelled houses) in a time when the corporate temple was to be prioritised. As result, their economy suffers. Provision will be abundant where the people of God channel their energies and endeavours to that which is primary on the heart of God for every season in time. The prophetic word of the Lord still comes to His church: "Consider Your ways!"

The 'panelled house vs. temple' focus can be applied on many different levels, e.g.

- Panelled House = local church; Temple = City church
- Panelled House = preoccupation with selfish private pursuits and ambition;
 Temple = pre-occupation with the corporate wellbeing of the church.

3. THE DRAWING NEAR OF THE LORD : DIVINE DISCLOSURE REQUIRES DIVINE PROXIMITY

Disclosures requires close proximity; they never take place from a distance. Note that Jesus draws near to two disciples who were DISCUSSING the relevant events of their time:

<u>Luke 24:15</u> "While they were <u>talking and discussing</u>, Jesus <u>Himself approached</u> and <u>began travelling with them</u>".

Discussing = suzeteo = to investigate *jointly*, that is, *discuss*, *controvert*, dispute (with), enquire, question (with), reason (together).

A reminder from Session 1: The Father and the Son disclose themselves to those engaged in a **WORD PROCESS** of hearing and obedience.

John 14: 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

God is attracted to His Word. Where His Word is heard and obeyed, He draws near to disclose Himself. Also, where there is a focussed discussion on His Word and Ways, He draws near to 'walk with you' to reveal Himself to you.

Mal 3:16a (KJV): Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another ...

Mal. 3:16-18 (NASB)

- 16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.
- 17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."
- 18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

4. EARNEST DESIRE FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Two men were of one heart journeying together to a clearly defined destination, the village of Emmaus. The name of a place represents a character in the spirit. One meaning of the name 'Emmaus' is 'in earnest longing'.

[The other meaning of Emmaus is 'hot springs']

Amos 3:3 NASB : Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?

AMP : Do two walk together except they make an appointment and have agreed?MSG : Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place?

NLT : Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?

It is important to walk with those who have the same desire as you. These men were focussed upon arriving at a spiritual location characterised by EARNEST LONGING. This speaks of intense desire. Prophetically, this indicates to us our dire need to DELIGHT in God's Word with an intense passion to such a degree that nothing rivals our love for God through loving HIS WORD. It was in Emmaus that HE, the Christ, was recognised by them after He broke bread and also having explained Himself from the Scriptures up to that point. Disclosures of God take place in the context of strong desire. **Divine desire** is the fertile ground for divine disclosure - or - Desire for the divine facilitates disclosure of the divine. No desire - no disclosure.

<u>DO NOT GIVE UP</u> - <u>BE CONSISTENT IN THE WORD</u>: The journey to Emmaus was seven miles. The Greek term 'stadia' translated 'miles' equates to about between 10.4 to 12 km depending on what definition of stadia is used. They walked approximately 12 km from Jerusalem to Emmaus. By any account, this is a long walk - we may call it 'Long walk to Disclosure'. This demands determination and courage. We must not relent our daily pursuit after knowing Christ more fully through the revelation of Himself through His Word. You must have sustained and consistent love and passion for God's Word. Do not lose your 'first love' - which is a love for God's Word.

Also note, these two disciples returned to Jerusalem from Emmaus to report to the other disciples the revelation of Christ to them. I suspect they probably ran all 12 km back with excitement.

Psalm 119:32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.

The other disciples were still in a state of unbelief and depression. Jesus did not draw near to them initially to reveal His identity to them, but to two disciples, who although also initially saddened at the events of their time and wrecked by unbelief concerning His resurrection, chose not to remain paralysed in a state of inertia but migrated in a bid to keep their longing for God strong.

5. HOLDING FAST TO THE CARRIER OF THE WORD

The two disciples testified that their hearts burned within them while Jesus spoke the Scriptures to them; then when Jesus pretended to go past Emmaus, they urged Him to stay on with them. This was a test for them. Jesus was assessing exactly how serious they were – how hungry they were for His Word. They refused to let Him go, even though at that stage they did not know He was the resurrected Christ.

The Lord honoured this ardent desire - and revealed His identity as the bread was broken. Bread is symbolic of the Word of God. When the Word is unpacked, broken and disseminated within the culture where it is highly apprised, valued, carefully obeyed, and there is a holding fast onto the one through which the Word is dispensed, THEN life-transforming revelations of God occur effortlessly.

Note that en route to Emmaus, Jesus expounded Himself in the Law and Prophets. They were unaware it was Jesus. He was only known to them after He decided to stay on and broke bread with them whilst reclining at the table. So their urging of Him to stay with them is not based on their knowledge of Him as Jesus, but purely as one who is able to expound the Scriptures and lead Christ out from the Scriptures to them. In this context, Jesus is functioning as one who is able to dispense grace from the Word and present Christ to people. In this, Jesus is representative of a spiritual father.

Your spiritual father in the Lord should be the primary medium through which God's Word to you is dispensed. There must be an honouring of him/her as both the embodiment and expression of God's Word to you. Staying in close proximity to them – figuratively speaking – is key to the entire process of the Lord Himself making Himself known to you (more on this in a later session). The figurative position within your heart as a spiritual son must be an 'urging' of your spiritual father to 'stay' or abide. The two disciples begged Jesus to stay with them – this reflects an intense desire to abide within the same spiritual context or environment as the one who distributes grace to you through the Word.

6. FATHERING AS THE MOST COMPLETE REPRESENTATION OF GOD

A factor that is noteworthy in assessing why Jesus drew near to these two disciples is the presence of the fathering principle or disposition within Cleopas. One of the disciples is unnamed, and the other is called Cleopas which means 'the whole glory; renowned father'. Names in Scripture depict character (identity) or function (destiny). Cleopas portrays the features which are ideal for the Lord to disclose Himself and give understanding of His purpose. He either represents one poised to attained the 'the whole glory' and 'renowned fathering' - or one who is already an embodiment of these.

Consider:

'The Whole Glory' The most complete representation of all the multifaceted dynamics in God.

'Renowned Father' = An accurate representation of spiritual fathering that is celebrated and acclaimed.

Cleopas is indicative of one who embodies the nature of God as father in its fullest and complete sense - a mature expression of God as father. This too becomes something that will facilitate great revelations and disclosure of God to us.

7. CHRIST IS LED OUT FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Initially, when Jesus first approach these two disciples, their natural eyes were prevented from recognising Him. Jesus did not allow Himself to be known to them by an appeal to physical, subjective evidence first. Rather, He chose to reveal His identity from the Scriptures. Jesus actually did three things: - He opened the Scriptures; - He opened their Eyes; - He opened their Minds to Understand Scripture.

> HE OPENED THE SCRIPTURES

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, HE EXPLAINED to them the things concerning Himself IN ALL the Scriptures.

Explained = diermeneuo = to explain thoroughly, clearly and exactly;

to translate; expound, interpret

to unfold the meaning of what is said.

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have

eternal life; it is these that testify about ME"

HE OPENED THEIR EYES

<u>Luke 24:31</u> Then their <u>eyes were opened and they recognized Him</u>; and <u>He vanished</u> from their sight.

Their eyes were opened to recognise Him within a specific context. This context was one of an apostolic culture in which the four principles of Acts 2:42 were solidly established within the environment of a household of faith. These principles are apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers:

Apostles' Doctrine : He opened the Scriptures to them - v.27 Fellowship : He reclined at the table -sharing grace.

Breaking of Bread : They broke bread together celebrating the 'Lord's table.

Prayers : 'Emmaus' - earnest longing - depicts prayer

Their eyes were opened: What they saw in the Scriptures was now seen incarnated before them

in reality. Scriptures become fulfilled within an apostolic culture. That

which was heard was now seen.

> HE OPENED THEIR MINDS TO UNDERSTAND

Luke 24:44-45 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

On this second time when He appears to all the disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem, He now not only opens the Scriptures expounding Himself in them, or just reveals to them His actual identity in person before their eyes, but also imparts to their minds an ability to UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES.

This understanding given to them allowed them to apostolically engage the Scriptures to continually and progressively lead Christ out from the Scriptures, viz. "the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (the entire Old Testament). You and I have the Old and New Testaments – the entire 'logos', which is designed to emit to us the revelation of the Christ.

An essential skill imparted to them was to put together like a jigsaw puzzle several related truths concerning Himself. Jesus brought fragments of truth and pieced it together so that they can see the whole truth. In a three year period, the apostle Paul taught the 'whole counsel' of God to the Ephesians.

Acts 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

May our prayer be like the psalmists': Psalm 119:18
Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

Eph. 1:18I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

THE SCRIPTURES UNVEIL AND CLARIFY EVERY SEASON IN GOD

After the resurrection, the disciples could not make sense of the events of their time. Christ explained His specific revelation of Himself to them from the Scriptures. Prior to this, their perception of the purpose of His death, His role and function was somewhat warped in that they were hoping He would

be the political redeemer of Israel. They did not believe the testimony of the woman that Christ had been raised from the dead and was alive. In Jesus words, they were 'foolish' and slow of heart to believe' (see Luke 24:25).

Foolish = anóētos = Lacking intelligence, foolish; one without mind - the highest power of knowledge in man, the organ by which divine things are comprehended and known or ignored.

They were fools, spiritually, i.e. they lacked the spiritual intelligence to comprehend fully the spiritual import of their day. This failure in part resulted from a neglect of the written Word.

Whenever you neglect the process of being under the revelation of the person of Christ through the medium of His Word which comes to you through a spiritual father, then your capacity to make sense of the spiritual significance of any hour in which you live is severely impaired. Your spiritual cognitive capacity is limited and then you also become 'slow of heart' to believe a prophetic word embedded within the written word, which is designed to give understanding of the time in which you live.

In His first encounter with them on the road to Emmaus, He could only reveal the two dimensions of the Word (Law and PROPHETS) because of the state of their hearts which he described as "foolish" men and "slow of heart to believe". Once at Emmaus - symbolic of attaining the 'earnest desire' of their hearts - their eyes were opened - their faith elevated - and they returned to share this experience with the rest of the disciples at Jerusalem. Here, He reveals Himself from the Law, Prophets and the Psalms. The Psalms speak of one's subjective personal experience with the Word - where doctrine becomes life.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES FOR PERSONAL REVIEW AND GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. What makes one-ness and agreement so attractive to God as the ideal context in which He would choose to disclose Himself profoundly through His Word?
- 2. Discuss the issue of the importance of knowing the spiritual significance of the hour in which you live, and how the Word of God is the basis from which we interpret the spiritual events and emphases of our day.
- 3. What value and benefit is there in actively talking over and discussing issues of spirituality and doctrine or a specific season in which God is emphasising certain things?
- 4. In reference to point (5) in this note together with Matthew 23:37-39, explore the seriousness of properly receiving and engaging the one whom God has positioned as spiritual father in your life.
- Elaborate on the methodology employed by Jesus in disclosing Himself in that He:
 (a) Opened the Scriptures, (b) Opened the Eyes, and (c) Opened the Mind to Understand the Scriptures.

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