

# Finding the Love of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation

Elyse M Fitzpatrick

*Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? (Luke 24:32)*

- Do you assign Scripture reading to your counselees? Why? What are you hoping that they see?
  - Quid Pro Quo
  - WWHD
  - Magic 8 Ball
  - Headlines
    - Less than 20% read it more than half the time.
  - Or do you want them to see it as one coherent narrative of love from beginning to end?
  
- How and why did the disciples' reading of the Bible change after the resurrection?
  - On the road to Emmaus...and back to Jerusalem again.
    - Luke 24:27, 32, 44-45<sup>i</sup>
  
  - What all the Scriptures teach: "...that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations...stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:46-47, 49).
    - The Messiah's necessary suffering and triumphant resurrection
    - God's ageless call to people to turn to him and receive forgiveness
    - The message is for both genders and all nation
    - The Spirit empowers the proclamation of this message
  
  - The Lord...
    - "...interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (27)
    - "And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (31)
    - "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (32)
    - [Jesus] "was known to them in the breaking of the bread" (35)
    - ...[he] "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (44)

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- Do we (or our counselees) read the Bible the mistaken way that the disciples did? Have we or they ever been able to say that the Lord opened the Scriptures to them and their hearts blazed with zeal when he did?
  - Jesus opened their eyes to see him in their entire history (Jn 5:39, 45-47)
    - At creation, in the Garden (Gen 1, 3)
    - With Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar (Gen 16)
    - With Isaac on Mt Moriah (Gen 22)
    - With Moses in the burning bush (Ex 3)
    - The deliverance from Egypt (Jude 5)
    - The rock in the wilderness (1 Cor 10:4)
    - The coming prophet (Deut 18:15)
    - With David as he penned the Psalms (Ps 2, 110)
  - The only way that the Bible will bring us joy is if we read it as Jesus said it was to be read: *As one coherent story of his redemptive love for his people.*
  - Hearing that the OT is about Jesus changes our relationship to the Bible. It changes from being about us and our kingdom to being about him and all he's done to bring his kingdom here.
  - Because Jesus said that the entire OT was part of his gospel message, we need to discern whether what we're reading is law (telling us what to do) or gospel (telling us what he's already done). "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17)
- Lord, open our eyes and the eyes of our counselees...

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.jesus.org/death-and-resurrection/resurrection/who-were-the-disciples-on-the-road-to-emmaus.html>